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ABSTRACT

This guide contains reviews of 49 selected books and pamphlets of special interest to women that were identified as good Canadian materials for women learning to read by a working group of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women. Among the types of materials reviewed are the following: books about contraception and reproductive health; photostories about immigrant women who work in a garment factory; collection of dub poetry describing the experience of immigrant women in Canada; Black woman's reminiscences about her grandmother's life in Nova Scotia; collection of stories from the Coast Salish Native community in British Columbia; workbook detailing a model of community curriculum development; handbook for women in abusive relationships; workbook explaining Canada's human rights laws; and book of stories about women in nontraditional jobs. The reviews were written by groups of students, literacy workers, or literacy workers and students together. Each review contains some or all of the following: title; author and/or editor; publisher name/address; distributor; length; indication of whether the work incudes illustrations; and price. Each review is accompanied by a sample page from the publication reviewed. Concluding the guide is a list of guidelines for reviewing materials for use as literacy materials for women. (MN)

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ED 396 183

Telling Our Stories Our Way

A guide to good Canadian materials for women learning to read

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Produced by a working group of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Wom

CCLOW

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Telling Our Stories Our Way

A guide to good Canadian materials for women learning to read

❑❑❑

Prepared by the CCLOW Literacy Materials for Women
Project Working Group

Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women

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ISBN 0-921283-08-3

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CCLOW thanks the members of the project working group for their creative and thoughtful work in putting together this guide.

Volunteer members of the group were Evelyn Battell, Elaine Gaber-Katz, Betty Ann Lloyd, and Vivian Stollmeyer. Other volunteers who assisted were Mary Breen and Cheryl Crawley. Kathryn Zettel participated both as a consultant and later as a volunteer. Former CCLOW staff member Gladys Watson was central to the organization and development of the project until the beginning of 1990, when freelance editor Linda Sheppard took over to take the project through to a finished book.

The project working group thanks the following people for their contributions to the project:

Martha Scott, former CCLOW librarian; Shyrose Visram, former CCLOW computer staff; Aisla Thomson, CCLOW Executive Director; Susan Witter, Chairperson of CCLOW Literacy Advisory Committee and former Past-President of CCLOW; Mala Naraine, CCLOW volunteer; Georgina Appiah, CCLOW part-time staff; Kul Rai and Julia Barnett, CCLOW summer student employees; Brenda Cranney and Gwen Jenkins, Women's Studies, York University; Noreen Richards, Veith House, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Kate Nonesuch, Duncan, British Columbia; Gay Patterson, Duncan, British Columbia; Linda Love, Duncan, British Columbia; Joyce Cameron, New Westminster, British Columbia; Cowichan Campus, Malaspina College, Duncan, British Columbia; East End Literacy, Toronto, Ontario.

Adaline Thomson, an active CCLOW volunteer, assisted CCLOW staff with various aspects of this project until her sudden death in 1988. The project working group and CCLOW staff remember, with appreciation, Adaline Thomson's work in support of this project.

The project working group also thanks all the reviewers whose work was so essential to the successful publication of the guide.

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☐ INTRODUCTION

In 1987, the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women (CCLOW)* initiated a new and exciting project. The goal of the project was to publish a resource guide to good Canadian literacy materials for women. The first of its kind, the guide would reflect a commitment to both a literacy practice that puts students first, and a feminist perspective, which recognizes the need for materials that deal with the particular realities of women's lives.

The resulting guide, TELLING OUR STORIES OUR WAY, features reviews of selected books and pamphlets of special interest to women learning to read. The kinds of materials chosen for review include: a book about women's health; a photostory about immigrant women who work in a garment factory; a collection of dub poetry about the experiences of immigrant women in Canada; a Black woman's reminiscences about her grandmother's life in Nova Scotia; and, a collection of stories from the Coast Salish Native community in British Columbia. The guide contains reviews of 49 books or pamphlets all of which were published in Canada. They were chosen by a project working group of volunteer literacy workers and staff from CCLOW. The reviews were written by groups of students, by literacy workers, or by literacy workers and students together.

In the table of contents, the publications reviewed are listed alphabetically by title with page numbers. Opposite each review is a sample page from the publication. At the back of the guide are guidelines that can be used to assess good literacy materials for women. Also at the back are brief biographies of the volunteer members of the working group.

WHY THE GUIDE WAS DEVELOPED

Studies about how people learn to read show that it is easier for students if the materials they are reading relate to their own experiences. One of the many barriers facing women who wish to improve their reading skills, is the lack of materials that are relevant to their lives. During the past few years, women who have been working with women in literacy programs have become more and more aware of the need for non-sexist materials that reflect women's experiences. In searching for non-sexist materials that are relevant to women's lives, literacy workers found that there is very little information available on the materials that exist. The aim of the project working group was to find and review the best Canadian materials for women that are now available (or should be made available through reprints or wider distribution) and to bring this information together in one book.

** CCLOW is a national, voluntary, feminist organization that advocates equality between women and men by promoting equal participation in our educational, political, economic, legal, social and cultural systems.*

HOW THE GUIDE WAS WRITTEN

To find out what resources were currently available, CCLOW staff sent out a request to literacy groups, women's groups, training and upgrading programs, boards of education, community colleges and other organizations. These groups were asked to send copies of, or information about, materials they felt were good examples of literacy materials for women. Out of more than 2,000 contacts, over 300 people replied to the request. While many were able to recommend books or pamphlets, others expressed their concern about the lack of good materials and gave their support to the project. All replies were entered into a computer database, which could then be used to generate lists of respondents, recommended titles and other information as required.

Once responses were received, the working group was formed to take the project through the next stages. Members of the group came from eastern, western and central Canada. Together, they worked out criteria for choosing materials to be reviewed, decided on the review format, and developed plans for setting up volunteer reviewing groups. These groups were to include women literacy students as often as possible. In devising their criteria for judging "good literacy materials for women," the group acknowledged that materials that reflect and celebrate women's lives are more likely to be used where there is good literacy practice. The group developed a set of guidelines which they felt would be useful to others (see page 101). The guidelines are intended to assist in choosing and producing feminist materials. Users of the guide might wish to look at these guidelines in light of their implications for feminist practice.

HOW THE REVIEWS WERE DONE

The books and pamphlets to be reviewed were given to three members of the working group — Evelyn Battell in Duncan, British Columbia, Betty Ann Lloyd in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Vivian Stollmeyer in Toronto, Ontario — who agreed to set up reviewing groups. While the process was different in each location, in most cases students were involved in reading and discussing the materials and/or writing the reviews. Students found the experience interesting and as one of the groups noted, "In most instances, the students wanted to tell others about the books and had intense discussions as a result of reading them. Many said, 'they should have more of these books.'"

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The people who put together this guide hope that the reviews will help literacy workers and women students to find the good materials that are now available. The guide may also help to identify areas where new materials are badly needed. As women students continue to write their own stories and more books from women's perspectives are published, the members of the project working group expect that the next edition of the guide will be at least twice as long as this one. ■

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REVIEWS

Good Canadian Books for Women Learning to Read

All my life
by Donna Buthuru
Edited by June Dragma

Publisher:
Vancouver Community College, King Edward Campus
Box 24620, Stn C
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V5T 4N3

Distributor:
same as publisher

25 pages

short photostory at back of book
2 illustrations

$2.00

All my life

by Donna Buthuru

This is a booklet in which a 67-year old woman tells us about her life. Donna Buthuru was born and grew up in Fiji. She married there, had six children and worked hard at a lot of different jobs. She moved to British Columbia when she was in her middle age and found more jobs in Canada. She is now learning how to read and says "All my life I have worked very hard. But now I am thinking maybe my life is better."

Women who are beginning to read may want to start at the last story on page 19. There are photographs and fewer words on each page. Once women have read this story, they may want to go back to the beginning. There are more words on the pages at the start and no photographs.

This is a good story for women who are immigrants to Canada. Women who are working hard for their families and at low paying jobs will know what Donna Buthuru is talking about. Older women and women who want to talk about women's lives will like the way she survived. It is a good "reading" book and a good book to start a conversation.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

SELLING PEANUTS

There was a Catholic Father
in a Fijian school.
He was in charge of the school.

At that time I had 3 children
still with me.
All the time I was thinking -
I don't know what to do.
What am I going to do?

It was very hard to find work
in Fiji.

Birth Control
by Wyeth Family
Planning Services

Publisher:
Wyeth Ltd.
Education Department
P.O. Box 370
North York, Ontario
Canada
M3M 3A8

Distributor:
same as publisher

22 pages

10 full-page
illustrations

Free

Birth Control

by Wyeth Family Planning Services

This booklet was put together by the Wyeth Family Planning Service. Wyeth Ltd. is a company in Toronto that produces pharmaceuticals, including birth control pills.

This booklet has many large words and is not very easy to read. However, there is not a lot of text. Women may want to use the illustrations alone when talking about birth control and other issues of sexuality and health.

Women who want to learn the words associated with the sexual and reproductive parts of their bodies may find the illustrations and straightforward definitions useful. Women who want to understand the good and not-so-good aspects of various kinds of birth control will need to find other material. Mary Breen's book, **Taking Care**, reviewed on page 74, has the text that could be used with these illustrations.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

The Intra-Uterine Device

(I.U.D.)

The I.U.D. is a specially shaped piece of plastic that must be inserted into the uterus by a doctor. It may work in one or both of the following ways:

- immobilize the sperm
- change the lining of the uterus to prevent implantation of the fertilized egg.

Some I.U.D.s are covered with very fine copper wire, others contain a hormone that is slowly released. A doctor will select the one best suited for the patient.

Borrowed Beauty

by Maxine Tynes

Borrowed Beauty
by Maxine Tynes

Publisher:
Pottersfield Press
R.R. #2 Potters Lake,
Nova Scotia
Canada
B0J 2S0

Distributor:
same as publisher

71 pages

cover photograph

$7.95

This is a book of poetry by a Black woman from Nova Scotia. Maxine Tynes says her poems "are great shouts of the joy that I feel and share."

This is a part of one of her poems.

Womanquest
reaching out and
reaching in
to all the women
that we are
to all the women
that we could be.
What of the woman
who is Black, and reaching?
What of the woman
who is poor, and homeless?
What of the woman
who is Native, and of the First People?

Some of the poems are harder to read than others and some women may not understand all of the words. But most of them have strong, clear language and very visual imagery. They are wonderful to read out loud.

Borrowed Beauty is a good book for women to use who want to understand what poetry can be. It can help them see how they can write poetry – or **are** writing poetry.

There is only one photo – of Maxine Tynes on the cover. Women may want to find other photos and pictures to put with some of the poems. If some of the poems are taken out of the book and put on posters, women may find themselves reading them out loud.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

Now I See You

(poem for my mother: Ada Maxwell Tynes)

When did I start looking at you, my mother?
I don't know;
but often, it's your hands I'll watch
all brown, and bumpy-smooth
those same hands that
held and cradled me,
in my new life.

I look at your nose,
so high and strong, for a Black woman;
the same nose of
some noble African tribe. But where? Where?

I look at your eyes.
They've seen so much. So much.
You'll never tell me.

The hardest look of all
was the one I took of you sleeping.
and, missing my dad, still;
you lie with pillows piled high
and nestled close beside you, in sleep.

Can We Make a Deal?
by Richard Darville

Publisher:
Legal Services Society
Suite 300
1140 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 4G1

Distributor:
same as publisher

The legal information is being updated and will be reprinted by Spring 1991.

143 pages
teachers' manual is 79 pages

34 black and white drawings

$10.00

Can We Make A Deal?

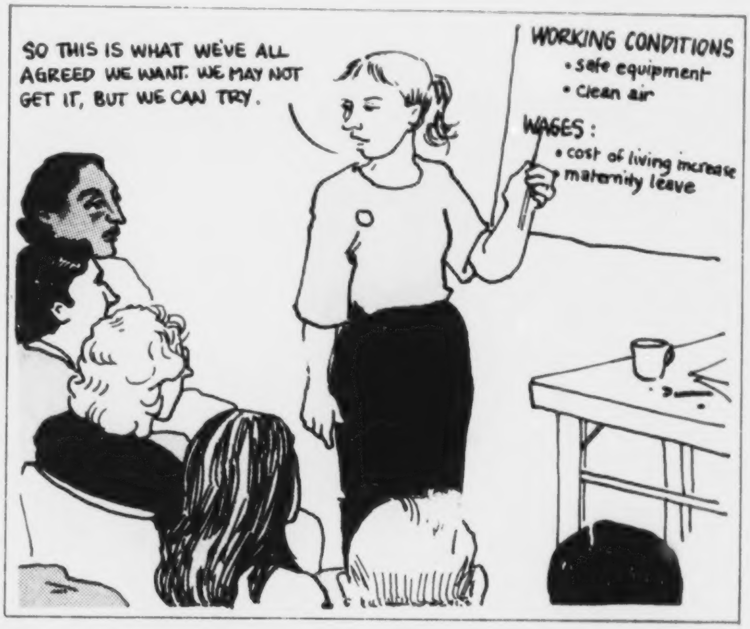
by Richard Darville

This book teaches contract law. It starts out with a story of a woman who was almost ripped off by a door-to-door saleswoman. It then teaches the parts of a contract and provides a bit of history about us as consumers. Then there are stories about contracts we all make – employment, buying shoes, labour unions, getting things fixed and renting a home. The stories are about working people of many racial backgrounds. The women in the stories are often smart, strong people.

Our classes enjoyed learning about these laws and told stories about times they had been ripped off or times when their knowledge of the law gave them power. They liked the people in the stories.

There is an exercise book that has clear, easy-to-read directions. It reviews what happened in the stories, works with vocabulary, including legal language, and raises questions for discussion and writing. The exercises could be done by people working alone and different exercises would be useful to different students. The exercise book is called **Teacher Resource Manual**. There is no answer key. The laws and the resource information given are for British Columbia only.

A review by Evelyn Battell, Duncan, B.C.


SO THIS IS WHAT WE'VE ALL AGREED WE WANT. WE MAY NOT GET IT, BUT WE CAN TRY.
WORKING CONDITIONS
• safe equipment
• clean air
WAGES:
• cost of living increase
• maternity leave

Some people think that workers in unions should also bargain about the work itself, about what they make and how they make it. For example, workers in an automobile factory could decide that they don't want to work on an assembly line with a foreman. A team of workers could make a whole car. They could decide among themselves which person does which parts of the work. They could bargain for the right to do that. However, unions don't often bargain to control the work itself.

Children of the First People
by Dorothy Haegert

Publisher:
Pulp Press/
Tillicum Library
100-1062 Homer Street
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V6B 2W9

Distributor:
same as publisher

127 pages

88 black and white photographs

$21.95

Children of the First People

by Dorothy Haegert

This book is really interesting. It has personal stories from ten Native Elders from British Columbia. Three of the stories are written by women.

One story we liked was about Helen Alphonse. She tells how she is continuing with her art of knitting beautiful Cowichan Indian sweaters and is passing her skills on to the next generation. In another story, the writer tells how they taught the children to be quiet and disciplined during the dances. She also talks about how she raises the children.

Some of the Elders in this book have passed on. We are glad that they got to tell their stories, because when all the Elders are gone there won't be anybody around to teach the next generation. Some of the Native people don't know very much about their culture but now they can pick up this book and read it. Other people will enjoy the book, because they can learn about this great culture.

The print is clear and not too small. The words are simple. The photographs are very expressive and revealing.

A review by Esther Johnny and Amarjit Paige, Duncan, B.C.

DOROTHY SANVIDGE

Mowachaht

When I was a little girl I lived in Friendly Cove most of the time. When we were going to get the fish we lived in Sand Point. There's a reserve there. Or in a place called Hisnitt – that's where-we went for our fish. It's on your left hand as you're going into Head Bay, on a reserve there. We actually have twenty-three reserves to our name – the Nootka Band. That's a lot of reserves they're not using.

In the summer Friendly Cove is nice but in the winter it's wicked. There were daisies there every springtime and summer. Oh, it was very nice when I was a little girl because those flowers used to come out every springtime and there was a man who kept everything blooming and clean. No, there were no berry bushes there. The berries were in the gardens each one had and weren't allowed to grow outside. That's the way it was. And the ball field was nothing but bushes and they cleared that off by hand. They did it all by hand – real big trees they felled. They uprooted the roots. And now it's nothing. And all those totem poles fell down. They just let them go. My sister Terry says she'll never move from there.

Children then were like any others only they didn't wear what we wear today. They wore cedar bark capes and things. It would be nice to show them. I know how to make those capes, but I haven't been doing it for some time now. I've been busy knitting and I've started this bead work. I need grasses to do my shopping baskets, too.

But it seems sometimes that they were happier than some children are now. They were running free, not held back from anything. And they learned quick. I learned how to do things when I was five years old. I could do the work my grandmother taught me. Today girls can't learn until they're teenagers. I'd like somebody to learn the basket work because I'm about the last one from our reserve – I'm the last one doing basket work.

I learned how to help with the fish, smoking fish. I learned early to fix fish, smoke meat, everything. I'd be about nine or ten when I started helping with the fish. That was young. These kids don't know how yet.

The children had a ball game they used to play, and games with arrows and spears. Even little girls played. Boys and girls all played together. The older people played indoor games. The played with bones – whale bones with markings on them, like dice – the white people call them dice. When I was about twelve I couldn't understand what they were playing. But they really enjoyed that game.

There used to be all kinds of games. The men were in one place, the women were

Coast-to-Coast Reader
by Joan Acosta

Publisher:
Nelson Canada
1120 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, Ontario
Canada
M1K 5G4

Distributor:
same as publisher

63 pages

one photograph or
illustration per page

$8.50

Coast-to-Coast Reader

by Joan Acosta

The **Coast-to-Coast Reader** offers information about the daily lives of Canadians. It also includes some history and some information about the geography of the country.

The book is a collection of articles from the **Westcoast Reader**, a newspaper for literacy learners published in B.C. Articles are taken from daily newspapers and rewritten for the **Westcoast Reader.**

The most interesting sections of the book are Part 1 and Part 3. Part 1 includes articles about people in Canada. It highlights the experiences of immigrants, women doing non-traditional work, disabled Canadians, and a variety of people's interests and activities. Part 3 includes descriptions of the everyday lives of some Canadians with some instructions for keeping safe, keeping warm, and what to do in case of fire.

Part 2 highlights place names, Canada's coins, the RCMP and some of Canada's cities, but lacks the depth and interest of Parts 1 and 3.

All in all, the **Coast-to-Coast Reader** has enough interesting articles in it to be of use. It can be used selectively, depending on learners' interests and needs. It will be useful in raising some of the issues regarding immigrants' lives in Canada and non-traditional work for women.

A review by Nomi Wall, Toronto, Ontario

Job Change Good for Some Women

Kate Braid is a carpenter. She changed jobs four years ago. She was tired of her job as a secretary. She wanted a different job.

Braid, 36, is happy with her new job. The pay is better, and she likes to work outside.

She says changing jobs was not easy. Carpentry is hard work. Braid says, "At first I had to hold the hammer with both hands."

Braid says women are sometimes afraid to change jobs. They only dream about changing jobs. Kate Braid has some advice for women thinking about a job change: "Go ahead and do it. It's never too late."

Kate Braid enjoys working as a carpenter.

Developing a Northern Curriculum
by Audrey Anderson

Publisher:
Adult English Education Committee
Red Lake, Ontario
Canada

Distributor:
Audrey Anderson
341 David Street
Sudbury, Ontario
Canada
P3E 1T9

247 pages

many illustrations, photographs and charts

$15.00

Developing a Northern Curriculum

by Audrey Anderson

This workbook is the best model of community curriculum development that we have seen. The author explains that she used the methods of Paulo Freire to develop learner-centred material. The results are an excellent example of how we can turn theory into action. Although the material is obviously developed for Northern programs, it could be easily used or adapted elsewhere in Canada.

There are seven units, dealing with topics such as Heating with wood; Jobs for Northern Women; and Recreation: Fishing, Hunting, Gardening, the Edible North.

Each unit includes writing at different levels with a wide variety of illustrations and photographs. There are exercises that help participants work on their English language skills. Content and grammar seem to be mixed painlessly.

Some parts of the material could be used with women who are just beginning to read. The exceptional visuals will lead to language experience, whole language and phonics work. Some parts of this material could be used for women working at a grade 12 level: to reinforce skills they already have or are in the process of developing.

Women are represented in both traditional and non-traditional work. None of the material is sexist and it reflects the reality of different cultures in the North.

This resource is a gift – a wonderful jumping-off board for tutors and teachers as well as learners and students.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

A Chamber Maid's Job

Photo by Audrey Anderson

Ethel works as a chamber maid at the Balmer Hotel. She comes from Northern Manitoba. She is a Cree Indian. Ethel makes beautiful Indian mitts, moccasins and mukluks. She does beautiful beadwork. She makes extra money this way.

In this picture, Ethel is changing the bed. She is changing the pillow cases and she is changing the sheets.

Eleventh Child
by Louise Tunstead

Publisher:
East End Literacy Press
265 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 2G3

Distributor:
Pippin Publishing/
Dominie Press Limited
1361 Huntingwood Dr.
Unit 7
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada
M1S 3J1

33 pages

11 pages with photographs

$2.00

Eleventh Child

by Louise Tunstead

The book is about Louise Tunstead's life story. She was a premature baby who was taken to the Sick Children's Hospital. She was given blood by her mother so she could live. Louise had six brothers and four sisters. When Louise was two years old her big brother died. When he was alive he used to look after Louise.

Louise was young during the Depression. She used to have a happy life until her father got a job and spent a lot of time drinking with his friends. When she was seven years old she saw her father drunk for the first time. Louise was terrified. She thought he was sick, but soon found out that her father's drinking problem was going to be part of her life. Sometimes when Louise got home from school, she found her mother beaten up by her father.

Louise met George, her future husband, at the bowling alley when she was sixteen. They got married when she turned eighteen. They went to Ottawa for their honeymoon. Later they had children. They lived for a while with Louise's parents. Louise's Dad gave up drinking and both her parents loved the grandchildren very dearly. After that, Louise and George ran a foster home and cared for many foster children.

We liked this book.

A review by Darsham Kaloti, Marianne Edwards and Richard Cardy, Duncan, B.C.

chapter 1: My Arrival

I was the eleventh child. I was a premature baby and weighed in at three pounds. I was taken to Sick Children's Hospital and was under the care of a pediatrician. My mother had to give me blood so I would live. The transfusions were given to me from her leg to mine. I was one of the first babies to be fed Pablum; babies were normally fed mother's milk until they were a year old.

When I came home, I had to be carried around on a pillow so that I would not get bruised. Two of my sisters had me out in the carriage but I fell out when they took me down a curb. They teased me and said I was lucky because I landed on my head.

Emily Carr:
The Different
Victorian
by Anne Monaghan

Publisher:
Canadian Library Assoc.
200 Elgin Street, Ste 602
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K2P 1L5

Distributor:
same as publisher

9 pages

1 black and white
photograph
1 illustration

$2.25

Emily Carr:
The Different Victorian

By Anne Monaghan

This story briefly describes the unusual life of Emily Carr. The portrayal is quite sensitive in a number of ways. We see Emily's un-Victorian character as a little girl contrasted with her sisters' pious, prissy behaviour. Her attitudes toward Western Canada, the Native People and their culture are highlighted. It is clear that Emily preferred solitude, the bush and her pets to the pressures of being famous. It is too bad that there isn't a picture of one of her paintings.

I am pleased that this book introduces the reader to a determined woman and not simply a famous artist. We see how she struggled against her upper class family's values. She lived a life that was very different from most women in her day. As a single woman devoted to her painting, she lived in poverty for many years. She survived a narrow-minded art world and rejected a society that treated Native People with disinterest and disrespect.

This book was used by intermediate ESL students in a Reading and Writing class. They were impressed and referred to it as "the story of the pioneer woman artist."

A review by Ellea Wright, Toronto, Ontario

Here again, Emily was different. She said she was a Canadian. She loved Canada. She wanted her family to love Canada as well. She wanted them to see that it was a fine place to live.

Friends of Emily's family were working with Indians in the west of British Columbia. When Emily was 15, she went to stay with her friends and the Indians. She wanted to get to know the Indians. She wanted to paint them.

Emily got on well with the Indians. They gave her a new name, "Klee Wyck." "Klee Wyck" means "Laughing One" in the Indians' language.

The Indians were closer to nature than people living in big cities. They did not let a clock run their lives for them. They still had time to look about them. They took the time to look at the trees, to feel the wind, to listen to the sea.

Emily saw the Indians' totem poles. She loved the totem poles. They had pictures of men and birds and animals and fish. The totem poles told a story.

People looked at the totem poles and remembered that man was not alone in the world. The totem poles told people that man had to have other living things in the world to be able to live.

The totem poles said that the bird was smart, that the fish was fast, and that the bear was strong. People remembered that man was not above any of

Getting There:
Producing Photostories with Immigrant Women
by Deborah Barndt, Ferne Cristall and Dian Marino

Publisher:
Between the Lines
427 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1X7

Distributor:
same as publisher

110 pages

Black and white photographs throughout

$10.95 paper or
$16.95 cloth

Getting There:

Producing Photostories with Immigrant Women

by Deborah Barndt, Ferne Cristall and Dian Marino

The main part of this book is made up of two photostories. There are also sections on how the photostories were made, ideas for using them and a couple of essays. The photostories appealed to me because of their simplicity and the attractive photographs. However, the students in my class thought that there was too little reading and that so many pictures were a "waste of paper."

The two photostories are both about immigrant women, new to Canada, learning to become independent in large cities. Gloria's story tells about her problems using public transportation for the first time by herself. Aurora's story tells about going for a job interview.

Students in my class, all women, felt a lot of sympathy for the woman in one story but surprisingly, had little sympathy for the other woman who was nearly paralysed with fear. The two stories are the most useful parts of the book. They would be good for beginning second language students and best in one-to-one situations, small groups, or for individual reading. Literacy students would likely relate to the situations of getting lost and going for a job interview, but would be unfamiliar with the difficulties of learning a second language.

The other two sections of the book would be of use to instructors, tutors, or group leaders, but would be beyond the capabilites of, and of little interest to, beginning readers.

A review by Erica Bresee, B.C.

In Ecuador, I worked as a sales clerk. But life was hard there. There were not many jobs and we did not earn enough money. So we decided to try a new life in a new country.

When I first came to Toronto from Ecuador, my husband helped me look for a job. I found a job in a garment factory.

For the first three days, my husband went with me to show me the way. On the fourth day he said, "You're on your own."

How the Loon Lost her Voice
by Anne Cameron

Publisher:
Harbour Publishing Co.
Box 219
Madeira Park, B.C.
Canada
V0N 2H0

Distributor:
same as publisher

31 pages

black and white line drawings

$4.95

How the Loon Lost her Voice

by Anne Cameron

I think this book is designed for children. The story is a very interesting fairy tale about a beautiful singing loon and how the evil spirits came down to steal daylight away. The loon tried so hard to help and save the world from darkness, only to lose her singing voice. She could only make a soft sound. The other animals were so sad for her and for themselves because they would never hear her sing again. The loon was brave.

The story showed how all the animals stuck together in times of trouble to save the world from darkness. Fear never stood in their way. They co-operated with each other and they tried to do their part.

This book is an easy reader. The sentences aren't hard to understand. It was brief and to the point. I thought that the pictures went beautifully with the story. This book, with its checkered loon and the dark and light blue, stands out among other books. You would likely pick up this book instead of one that looks plain.

The book reminds me of Kipling's stories about animals. These stories show how the deer loses its antlers each year, and why the bear hibernates in winter.

A review by Bernice Fleury, New Westminster, B.C.

Poor little Loon.

Poor brave little Loon.

She was thrown up, up, up higher than she had ever been before in her life, and then, dazed and only half alive, she fell down, down, down, landing in a heap on the ground with her poor neck stretched so long and thin her own friends could hardly recognize her.

When she tried to sing, only a sad noise came from her poor ruined vocal cords.

"This is terrible!" Raven exploded. "This is just terrible."

Raven hadn't been too upset when Deer lost his horns. She hadn't been upset at all—in fact she thought it was rather funny—when Bear lost the wrestling match. But to treat a little black bird so badly was something else altogether.

"This," said Raven "is not to be endured!" And Raven started off to where poor Mole was waiting beside the hole she had dug.

I am worth the effort:
a handbook for women in abusive relationships

by Judith Kelsey

This book gives information to women who are in abusive relationships. It will help women who need or want to know what to do to get some support or get out. The guide was written for Newfoundland and Labrador women and the resources and phone numbers are for agencies in that province. However, women in other provinces will find the book full of thoughtful, sensitive advice.

The book is clearly divided into 3 sections. The first one describes the problem of violence against women and children. The second one outlines the steps that women may take to deal with their feelings, their children and their basic needs such as shelter and employment. This includes information about dealing with the police and with emergency situations. The third section is the directory of resources. It is very complete and provides a guide for women in other provinces who may want to make a list of what is available for them.

Here is an example of some of the writing:

> "When a woman is beaten, the first thing many people say is 'she must have done something to make him beat her'. No matter what she does, **a woman does not ask to be beaten and she does not deserve to be beaten.** It is wrong to blame the victim. If you are an abused woman, try not to blame yourself – **it is not your fault**." (page 14)

Women may use this book as a reference guide, reading and re-reading the sections that apply to their lives. It also provides an excellent base for a group discussion about how to deal with violence and abuse.

A review by Meredith Hutchings, Halifax, N.S.

I am worth the effort: a handbook for women in abusive relationships
by Judith Kelsey

Publisher:
Iris Kirby House
(St. John's Transition House)
P.O. Box 6208
St. John's, Nfld
Canada
A1C 6J9

Distributor:
same as publisher

38 pages of general information
42 pages for resources

small line drawings help break up the text

Free
Donation to cover costs gratefully accepted

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Similar information is available in other provinces. Contact local organizations dealing with abuse or family violence.

Emergency Action

Would you know what to do if your husband or boyfriend lost control? How would you protect yourself and your children if he started beating you or threatening you? Don't wait for the blow-up to happen to decide what to do. You must be able to act quickly when the time comes. Have an emergency plan ready.

The Escape Route

Know where to go and how to get there safely. Places you might consider include:

- the home of a friend, neighbour, or relative
- a boarding house, hotel, or motel
- an emergency shelter for women (see page 26 for details)

If you have children, you may have to make plans for them, too. You have every right to take them at a time like this. If you have questions about custody or their needs, talk to a lawyer or a counsellor. Look in the directory of this book under Legal Matters and Counselling.

I Call it the Curse:
A Book About Periods
by East End Literacy
Women's Group

Publisher:
East End Literacy
265 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 2G3

Distributor:
Pippin Publishing/
Dominie Press Limited
1361 Huntingwood Dr.
Unit 7
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada
M1S 3J1

36 pages

photographs and
drawings throughout

$3.95

I Call it the Curse:
A Book About Periods

by East End Literacy Women's Group

This is a booklet about women and their periods. In the story, several women talk together about what it's like when they are on their periods: the cramps, depression, discomfort. They also talk about the importance of knowing their bodies, the way their bodies function in reproduction, menstruation and menopause. There are drawings in the book that illustrate in clear graphic language a woman's reproductive cycle and reproductive anatomy.

This is an excellent resource on reproductive information for women. The book uses a straightforward style to tell about the menstrual cycle. The openness of the conversation between the women in the group will help other women understand reproduction and their bodies.

The information contained in the booklet is accessible, well-formatted and attractively presented. The women talk to each other in a friendly, non-threatening way. It is an excellent resource for opening discussion about women's reproductive health...and it will encourage a positive outlook on women's bodies and reproductive cycles.

A review by Nomi Wall, Marilyn Foster, Margaret Thibodeau, Dorothy Betts, Evelyn Wilson, Toronto, Ontario

Donna:
My Mum never talked to me
about this stuff.
She would die if she heard
the word vagina!

I've Come a Long Way
by Marguerite Godbout

Publisher:
East End Literacy Press
265 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 2G3

Distributor:
Pippin Publishing/
Dominie Press Limited
1361 Huntingwood Drive,
Unit 7
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada
M1S 3J1

25 pages

9 black and white photographs

$2.00

I've Come a Long Way

by Marguerite Godbout

Marguerite Godbout's book is about being born prematurely and the operations she had to help her walk. She tells about her problems, such as not being able to go to school because she lived so far away and she couldn't walk very well. In 1959 she moved from New Brunswick to Toronto and met a friend, Tommy. She spent twenty years with him. He showed her how uncrippled she could be and how to get around and do things. He left her after 20 years. At the end of the book, she picks up her life again. She goes back to school and carries on with her crafts.

This book gives us courage because if Marguerite can do it, so can we.

A review by Daljit Gamda and Tricia McHardy, Duncan, B.C.

CHAPTER III

One day I met Tommy. He was a friend of one of my brothers. He used to go out with a girl my brother went out with. She introduced us. Because of Tommy I began to do things I never thought I could do.

On our first date we went to a drive-in with my brother, Richard, and his girlfriend, but I'll never forget our real first date. We were driving along talking and he went through a red light. Then we went to a restaurant and he spilled water over himself.

Another day not long after this, we went for a drive in the country and we stopped at the side of the road where they were selling apples, and on the way back the apples fell out of the bag and spilled all over the back of the car. We had a good laugh about that. Another time we went with another couple to a park. Tommy started to pull the car rug off the seat of the car and tore it badly. We had to have our lunch on a park bench.

Immigrant Women's
Health Handbook
A book by and for
Immigrant Women
by the Staff Collective of
the Immigrant Women's
Centre, 1981

Publisher:
Immigrant Women's
Health Centre Collective
750 Dundas St. W.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M6J 1T8

Distributor:
same as publisher

40 pages

approximately 30
diagrams and
illustrations

$5.00

Immigrant Women's Health Handbook
A book by and for Immigrant Women

by the Staff Collective of the Immigrant Women's Centre

This book is a very important resource for women. It includes a lot of essential information on reproduction, abortion, infections, cancer prevention and a section on how to take care of yourself, called *Well Being*. The writers, who were staff at the Immigrant Women's Centre, come across as being deeply caring and wanting to protect women from harmful situations. They know that passing on information is a way to do this so that women can be their own best advocates.

One thing I appreciated about the book is that it gives a range of treatments for every health concern. Treatments are "what doctors usually prescribe" and the writers take care to include possible side-effects of such treatments. Alternative treatments might involve the use of herbs or vitamins, or remembering remedies "mothers and grandmothers used." This book is never patronising. It never suggests that the doctor is always right. It goes a long way in reminding women of their own abilities in ways of healing.

The problem with the book is that it is hard to read. There is a lot of information packed into 40 pages. The diagrams are helpful, but try to show too much at once. Long, medical words are explained in brackets, or in the glossary in the back, but they are still very difficult for a beginner reader. Many women would find it hard even finding the section that concerns them. But this book should still be in libraries in literacy programs, as a source book for future publications on women's health.

A review by Vivian Stollmeyer, Toronto, Ontario

The Menstrual Cycle

This is the time it takes a woman's reproductive system to get ready for the possibility of the growth of a baby in her womb. It is the time between periods, usually 20 — 36 days. The cycle begins when the menstrual blood starts to flow. The last day is the day before the next menstrual flow starts. If, for example, you begin to menstruate on the second day of the month and again on the 31st day of the same month, you had a 29 day cycle.

Menstruation

Menstruation is the blood that comes from the womb and flows out through the vagina about once a month. It is made up of substances that come from the lining of the womb if the egg has not been fertilized, and can last from two to eight days. The amount of blood lost is very little, about four tablespoons. Although some women feel uncomfortable during their periods, menstruation is not a disease and routine discomfort should not be treated as though it were the sign of a disease. The first time a woman menstruates is called the *menarche*.

Dysmenorrhea

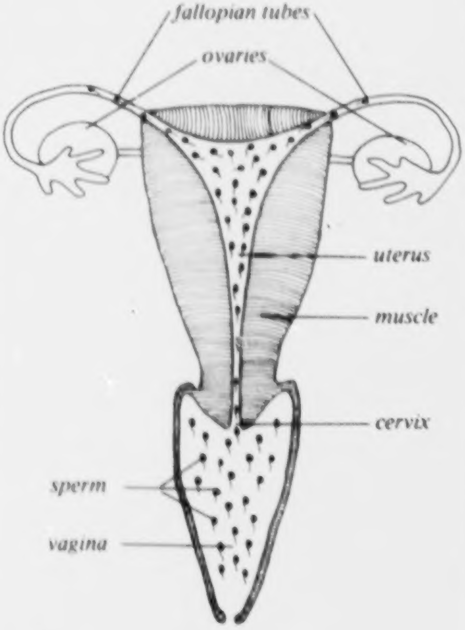
Dysmenorrhea means uncomfortable or painful periods. For some women it can be very severe. These women should check with a doctor to find out the cause. Sometimes proper nutrition and exercise are all that's needed. Potassium and calcium are great for relieving cramps. Bananas are a good source of potassium. Milk and milk products are good sources of calcium. (See Nutrition, page 30.)

Amenorrhea

This means not having a period. It is usually a sign of pregnancy, but there may be other causes. After a woman stops taking the pill, for example, she may not have periods for a while. A woman should always check with her doctor to determine the cause.

Conception

Conception is when the sperm meets the egg and fertilizes it. (See illustration 3.) Sperm can live in the womb for up to five days so conception can take place if sexual intercourse occurs within 2 — 5 days before the woman ovulates. The egg must be in the outer third of the fallopian tube for it to be fertilized. The fertilized egg then travels to the womb where it implants itself in the lining (endometrium).



3 Conception

It's Your Right!
by Jill Bell and
Marjatta Holt

Publisher:
Department of
Secretary of State
of Canada

Distributor:
Human Rights
Directorate
Department of the
Secretary of State
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0M5

Student manual:
95 pages
Teacher manual:
25 pages

black and white
drawings
and illustrations
throughout

Free

It's Your Right!

by Jill Bell and Marjatta Holt

This is a workbook that deals with Human Rights laws in Canada. It has chapters on discrimination against age, race, sex and disabilities. There is also a chapter on sexual harassment. Our class has had wonderful discussions and story-telling sessions because of this book.

Each issue is taught using letters, cartoons and newspaper stories to tell what happened to people. Often these case histories lead you to ask 'what do you think happened to her afterwards?' and 'did this ever happen to you?' Also there are puzzles, accident reports to fill in, matching exercises and letter writing.

The book has a wonderful layout. There are lots of clear drawings and white space.

The book has two drawbacks. Some provinces have different laws and the book doesn't make that very clear. The biggest drawback to the book is that it suggests very confidently that you will always be able to have your rights defended because the Human Rights Commission is there. Life isn't always that simple and that fair.

The teacher's manual is a helpful guide to using the book and to learning the legislation.

A review by Evelyn Battell, Duncan, B.C.

Case History #1

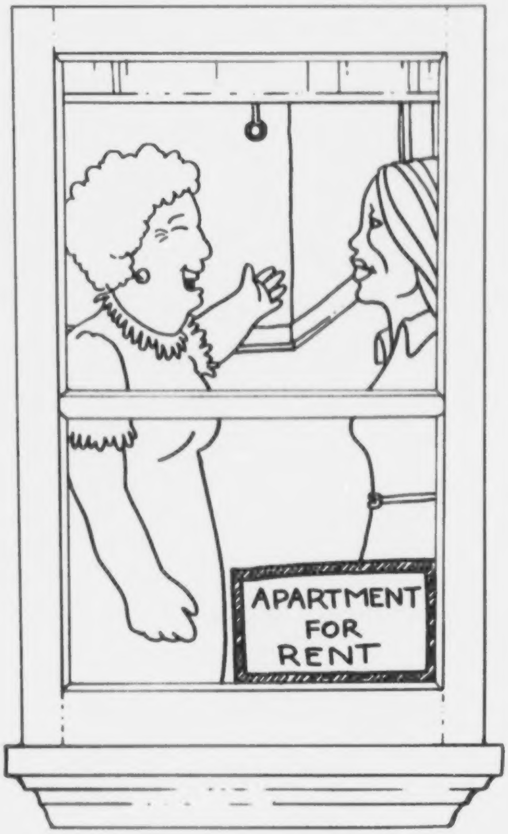
Betty Hi, Lisa. How are you? Have you found an apartment yet?

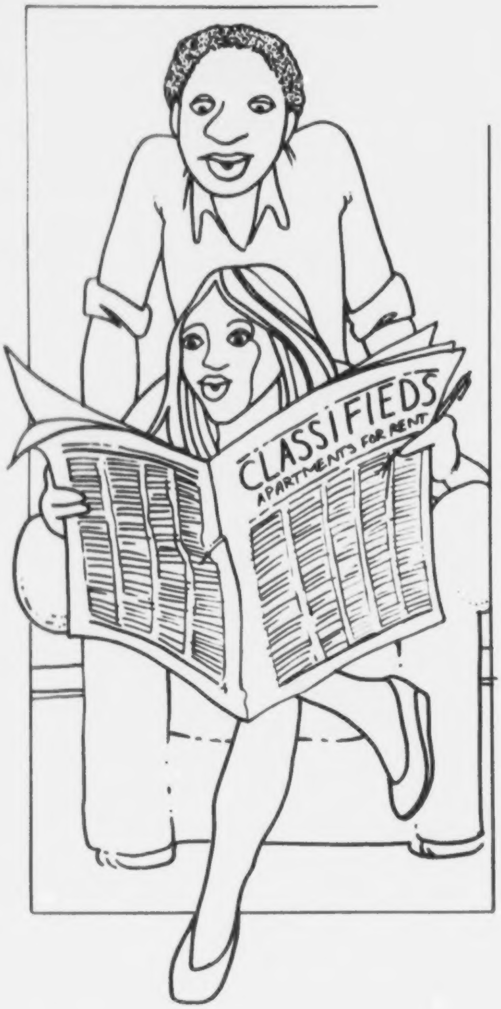
Lisa Oh, Betty, I'm so angry. We found a really nice place but the landlady won't rent it to us.

Betty What do you mean she won't rent it to you?

Lisa Well, I guess she just doesn't like the fact that Jeff's black.

Betty That's terrible. What happened? What did she say?





Lisa Well, first of all, we saw this ad in the paper and it sounded really nice. Jeff couldn't come with me to see it because he was working overtime, so I went on my own. The place was great and I told the landlady we'd take it. She said we both had to sign the lease and for both of us to come back that night.

Karen Kain:
Born to Dance
by Anne Monaghan

Publisher:
Canadian Library Assoc.
200 Elgin Street, Ste 602
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K2P 1L2

Distributor:
same as publisher

[currently out of print]

13 pages

2 illustrations

$2.25

Karen Kain: Born to Dance

by Anne Monaghan

The author brings you right into the world of Karen Kain and ballet in five short chapters. The book shows what you would see if you visited Karen in an exercise session. It tells about how she got interested in ballet and the work that goes into being a ballerina. It tells about the history of ballet and how it has changed. Quotes from Karen in the text help the reader get to know her as a person, not just as a "star."

I remember one of the first woman learners I worked with found great inspiration from reading this book. She identified strongly with the years and years of hard work devoted to achieving a goal. Karen's model gave her strength on her long road to literacy.

There is a two-page "word list" at the back which I don't find very useful.

The booklet is part of a Canadian series that was written using a "formula" for "readability." In other words, the sentences are short and the vocabulary is "controlled." The text isn't too choppy, however, and the story itself is lively enough to keep the pages turning.

The drawback to the book (and the series) is the bad design. The type is tiny, the pages glare and many people – myself included – find it hard to read. There are no photographs of Karen, and the two line illustrations don't break up the text or make it more interesting. What a wonderful book (and series) it would be if it could be reissued, in a format that would be more accessible to new readers!

A review by Nancy Miller, Toronto, Ontario

CHAPTER V
ON STAGE!

When Karen Kain is dancing in a show, she must get ready a few hours beforehand. She puts on her make-up and puts her hair up. Then she spends the rest of the time warming up. This gets her body ready for two or three hours of dancing. If she did not warm up, she might hurt herself while dancing. By the time she is ready to go on, she is usually tired.

She gets worried before each show. She sometimes thinks that she will not be able to remember the steps. Sometimes she thinks she will not be able to do the hard jumps and turns. Then she says to herself, "O.K., Karen. Pull yourself together."

At other times, she just does not want to dance. But when she hears the music, she forgets that she is tired. She says, "The music is what makes me want to dance."

The girl is dancing now. She is wearing a lovely white tutu and there are little stars in her hair. She floats along. Her feet never seem to touch the ground.

This is the same girl who worked so hard in class this morning. Tomorrow she will be back in

Kwulasulwut:
Stories from the
Coast Salish
by Ellen White

Publisher:
Theytus Books Ltd.
P.O.Box 218
Penticton, B.C.
Canada
V2A 6K3

Distributor:
Sandhill Book Marketing
Box 197, Stn A
Kelowna, B.C.
Canada
V1Y 7N5

[currently out of print]

64 pages

16 full-page black and white illustrations

$6.95

Kwulasulwut: Stories from the Coast Salish

by Ellen White

Kwulasulwut is a book containing 5 stories written to express lessons of life. They are stories from the Coast Salish tradition.

The story *The Stolen Sun* is about how a seagull tricked the sun into coming over for dinner to capture him. During the days the sun was missing, it was very dark. The ants find out where the sun is and tell the raven.The raven goes to the sea urchin for help. Together they figure out a way to free the sun.

In another story, the raven and the racoon help each other out. We liked the part where the raven pushed the racoon off the tree, because he was teaching him how to fly. We liked the story because people are meant to help each other like the raven and the racoon did. Then we would have fewer problems.

The story *Father Barbeques* is interesting because it helps you understand some Native ways. It was about a boy who tried to tell his father how to barbeque. The story makes the comment that you can learn as much from your children as your children can learn from you.

We would read this book again, recommend it to a friend or read it to our children. The book is easy to read because the letters are big and there are big line drawings that help you imagine the story. It would be useful to anybody in Canada. They could compare it to their own stories. There is another book called **The Eagle's Song** that has some of these same stories in it.

A review by: Ann Alphonse, Doug Meers, Vicky Edwards, Evelyn Battell, Joe P. Duggan, Roseanne Sam, Walter McMillan, Elizabeth George, Bea Thomas, Larry Jack, Duncan, B.C.

The raccoon was enjoying his first attempt at flying.

When the pair was close to the other side of the water, the raccoon began to wonder about landing.

"How are we going to land, Raven?"

"We'll land on the branch of a tree. It will cushion our landing and I won't get squashed."

"But how can we land in a tree?"

"We'll worry about that when we come to it."

The raven decided it would be best not to warn the raccoon. It would only make things more difficult.

When they landed, it was on the top limb of a tree. The raven opened his friend's eyes with his magical arms, then told him to get off and grab the nearest branch. The raccoon obeyed and he dug his claws into a branch and moved off the raven.

The raccoon began to look around and said, "We certainly came a long way, didn't we? I think my home is very close to here."

"Look at yourself!" the raven exclaimed. "You're hanging onto that tree. See your fingernails and toenails, they're called claws and were made for climbing trees."

"I didn't know that."

"Well, that's no excuse. You should never stop learning."

"I guess that is true."

"Now, I'll teach you how to climb down. Straighten out your legs and make sure you hang on."

The raccoon obeyed and straightened out his legs.

"Can your feet rest on that limb beneath you?"

"Yes."

"Good. Keep your feet on it and move your right hand down to the next branch. Then, move your left foot down to the next

Laura Secord
by Carolyn Barnes

Publisher:
Canadian Library Assoc.
200 Elgin Street, Ste 602
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K2P 1L5

Distributor:
same as publisher

10 pages

3 illustrations

$2.25

Laura Secord

by Carolyn Barnes

This booklet is short, and tells of an incident in the life of Laura Secord. Laura Secord was alive in the early 1800's. She was drawn into a war between Canadian and American soldiers because she and her family lived near Niagara Falls, very close to the Canadian/American border. And no, Laura Secord did not make chocolate candy. Though, by the end of the book, I understood why a brand of candy was named after her – she was a genuine folk-heroine. Her noted act of bravery was to walk twenty miles, through farms and forests, to give warning that American soldiers were about to attack a certain place.

The booklet also talks about Laura Secord's day-to-day heroism: taking care of a wounded husband, her five children and a house – all while being held prisoner in her own home by American soldiers.

There is a sketch of Laura Secord on page 3, showing her strong, calm face framed by a lacy Victor-ian bonnet. There are two other illustrations in the booklet.

This book is good, but would be better if it described both the conditions of Laura Secord's life and the factors that shaped the war she was involved in. I think women are very eager to read and understand the part we play in Canadian history, but it's not enough just to read about acts of heroism. What women do everyday is important and should be described. I feel Laura Secord took her 20-mile walk pretty much in stride.

A review by Vivian Stollmeyer, Toronto, Ontario

What does the name "Laura Secord" mean to you?

When you think of Laura Secord, you might think of a pretty girl making chocolates. You might think of a woman selling candy in a shop.

But would you think of a war? Would you think of guns and soldiers and dead men? Would you think of a woman putting her life on the line to help win an important battle?

This is what Laura Secord did. She did much more than give her name to boxes of candy. She helped Canada win the War of 1812.

Canada and the United States went to war with each other in 1812. By 1813, the American troops had taken over part of Canada. They had taken over some land on the Canadian side of the Niagara River, close to Niagara Falls.

Laura Secord was one of the Canadians who lived on this land. She and her husband had a shop in Queenston, a little town near Niagara Falls. They did not like to see the American troops overrun their town.

The Secords were like prisoners in Queenston. They were like prisoners in the town they had lived in for years.

Lonely Child
by Linda Beaupre

Publisher:
East End Literacy Press
265 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 2G3

Distributor:
Pippin Publishing/
Dominie Press Limited
1361 Huntingwood Dr.
Unit 7
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada
M1S 3J1

23 pages

7 line drawings

$2.00

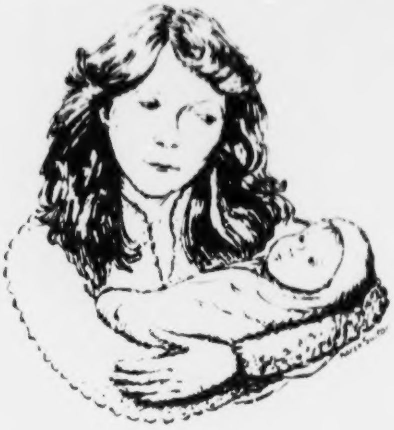
Lonely Child

by Linda Beaupre

The story is about Linda Beaupre and her son. Linda Beaupre was 16 years old when she had a baby boy who she raised on her own. She was afraid of raising her son incorrectly because she was so young. She was happy that God was there to help her when things weren't going well. She had problems with her son's behaviour. She encouraged herself to go on and solve her problems. She found it difficult to talk to her mother about her son. Now she is more mature and she is doing a lot better than before.

The book was very interesting to read. The story made us sad because she was very young to raise a child on her own. We liked the book. Young single mothers would find it especially interesting. There are a lot of drawings in the book that help explain what the book is about.

A review by Marianne Edwards, Richard Cardy and Darshan Kaloti, Duncan, B.C.



When I was young
I had a son
But I was worried
I would raise him wrong
Since I was so young..

Making Choices: Women in non-traditional jobs
by Sheila Amato and
Pat Staton

Publisher:
Seacraft Publications
135 George Street S.
#902
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 4E8

Distributor:
same as publisher

120 pages

28 black and white
photographs

$14.95

Making Choices:
Women in non-traditional jobs

by Sheila Amato and Pat Staton

This book is full of stories about women who work in jobs where women are not usually found. Part of each story has facts about the work these women do. Then, women use their own words to say how they decided to take these jobs. They talk about the training they needed and the support they got.

The glossy pages are not crammed full of text. There is a lot of white space around the different blocks of words. Different type styles and indenting make it clear when the women are talking and when they are being talked about. The lines of print are very close together, however, and this makes the text quite difficult to read at times. The italic type used for the women's words makes them difficult to read.

The book is full of wonderful, large photographs of the women at work. These photos, with some of the writing by the women themselves, would be useful for women who are beginning to read. It would be helpful to re-type some of the text to make it easier to read.

There is a list of resources at the back of the book. Most of them are from Ontario, but they could lead to discussion for women in other regions.

Women could use this book to talk about choices they can make – if they have the chance or can get the training. It can lead women into thinking about their future and the future of the girls and young women in their lives.

Everyone who sees the book says "I'd like to have that book on my shelf!"

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S

Dee never dreamed that she might drive a bus or subway train. After taking general arts in school, and then some sales courses, she got a job in a store. But she wasn't happy there, and when a friend who was a transit driver suggested that she apply, she thought of her good driving record and decided to try it.

> *They really train you. They put you through a lot at the Operations Training Centre. It takes about a month and then they put you on the road with other drivers who show you all the ropes. At first I was nervous, you're driving something that's forty feet long and you just hope not to parallel park it anywhere!*

The encouragement Dee has received from her family, friends and co-workers is very important to her.

> *My family is very supportive. All my friends are very supportive. The people I work with give 100 per cent. The superintendent lets you make your own mistakes and tells you how you can correct them, without getting nasty about it.*

In a job like Dee's there are good things and some disadvantages.

My Grandmother's Days
by Viola Parsons

Publisher:
Lancelot Press
P.O. Box 425
Hantsport, Nova Scotia
Canada
B0P 1P0

Distributor:
The Book Room
1164 Granville Street
P.O. Box 272
Halifax, N.S.
B3J 2N7

52 pages

There are several photographs at the back of the book

$5.00

My Grandmother's Days

by Viola Parsons

Viola Parsons is a Black Nova Scotian woman who has written a book about her grandmother's life – and her own life – which many, many women will enjoy. She talks about the day-to-day life of her grandmother and her grandmother's friends and family. There are a lot of details in the book about chores, toys, gardens, holidays, the furniture in the house, her faith in God, travelling and hobbies.

Women who read this book will know what life was like in the early 1900's for Black women who lived near Halifax, Nova Scotia. They will be able to talk about their own lives and the lives of their mothers and grandmothers. Even though the details may be different, there is a strong similarity in the day-to-day tasks that women do.

The writing is very vivid and clear. It sounds as if Viola Parsons is in the room, talking with us.

The first chapter is quite long, but the others are mostly three to five small pages each. The photographs are all at the back of the book and they are very interesting. The book also includes three spirituals and a prayer that Viola Parsons wrote.

Women who are beginning to read may like to hear the chapters read out loud. Then, they may feel comfortable reading paragraphs or pages that are enlarged on a photocopier or printed out.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

2

MRS. ELIZABETH PARSONS was a good friend of grandmother's. She lived nearby. They often shared things with each other. She was a lovely seamstress and used to make things over for grandmother. I remember a coat she made me when I was about ten or twelve years old. The color was purple with a cape attached. I thought it was the best coat I ever had. She is a wonderful Christian lady.

I have in my home a Williams sewing machine which was grandmother's. It still works, but is not used that much. It's about seventy years old or more. Everything was sewn on that machine, even horse rugs and leather.

I always attended Sunday School and Church. Our Sunday School was simple, but we learned a lot — a card with a story and a memory verse on it. You had to memorize the verse and read the story and be able to tell your teacher about it. The teacher read the Bible and we sang the children's hymns. My favourite hymn was "I am so glad that Our Father's in Heaven."

Christmas in the home meant a tree, with very few trimmings for ornaments. Stars were made of cardboard and covered with tinsel from the packages of tea. Coloured paper was twisted and put on the tree along with cards and candy canes. We thought it was so pretty. One little toy under the tree and oh! how happy we were.

Our Christmas dinner was a goose or roast of pork with all the vegetables; dessert was plum pudding, strawberry tarts, cranberry or mincemeat pie.

Sometimes my uncle would bring home a large wooden

My Life
by Marguerite Theriault

Publisher:
North Branch Library
Adult Basic Upgrading
Program
c/o Halifax City Regional
Library
5381 Spring Garden Rd.
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada
B3J 1E9

Distributor:
same as publisher

34 pages

19 pages with
photographs

Free (upon availability)

My Life

by Marguerite Theriault

The book was very interesting. I enjoyed reading Marguerite's life story. At the beginning of the story I felt sorry for Marguerite, but as I read on her life started to get better. The part I liked the best was when Marguerite got a job and moved into an apartment on her own. The part I disliked was when Marguerite went to live at Park Haven Estates for a year.

Marguerite was a disabled person. She had to depend on her family as she grew up, while I didn't have to depend on anyone.

There were a lot of places I had never heard of, such as Meteghan, Yarmouth, Digby and Truro.

This book reminds me of other biographies that I've read. I would read this book again in the future. I would recommend it to a friend, if he or she was interested in reading a biography.

This material is easy to read and to understand. Marguerite wrote this book so even young children could read and understand it.

A review by Gladys Fleury, New Westminster, B.C.

Chapter #1 Birth

My name is Marguerite Theriault. I was born on August 7th, 1937 to Josephine Smith Theriault and Jean Pierre Theriault. It all started in Meteghan, Nova Scotia, which is between Yarmouth County and Digby County.

I don't remember much about when I was a baby - only what little bit my mother told me. I was born at home like most babies back then, with the help of a doctor and a mid-wife.

When I was only a few days old, my parents noticed that there was something the matter with me. They noticed that only my right arm and my head were moving. The doctor said that I had polio and it caused most of my body to be paralyzed.

My Name is Rose
by Rose Doiron

Publisher:
East End Literacy Press
265 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 2G3

Distributor:
Pippin Publishing/
Dominie Press Limited
1361 Huntingwood Dr.
Unit 7
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada
M1S 3J1

67 pages

black and white photographs on most pages

$5.95

My Name is Rose

by Rose Doiron

My Name is Rose is about a girl who was abused by her father. The girl was only six years old when her father was doing this to her. Her Mom tried to stop him, but he was beating her up too. One day her Aunt came over and saw him hit her. She then called her to the bedroom, and looked at her back and saw bruises on her body. So she called a social worker and took her to a home.The poor girl couldn't stay with her Mom because the landlady didn't want kids in her building. The girl's mother was sick too and really couldn't look after her.

She made friends with some street kids. They were caught sniffing glue, so she was sent back to live with her Dad. He told the social worker he would look after her, and the social worker believed him. He used Rose for her cheque and bought some beer with it. The father took Rose to a doctor and told him to tie her tubes. She went to look for work with her friend and met this guy named Paul. They went to a party. She didn't want to go home because her Dad would beat her up for coming home late at night. So, she just stayed with Paul for the night and the next day Paul gave her a key to his house. She went home and her Dad beat her up again. She came back to Paul with a bloody face. She didn't want to go back to her Dad so she asked Paul to help go pick up her stuff. She left her Dad for good. She lived with Paul for two years and then they got married.

This book has photographs on every page and is easy to read. The photographs may be offensive to some people because they are violent. Teachers need to be ready with information about local safe houses. It was sad and happy. It's useful for women who are going through this to read about it happening to other women and to know they're not alone.

A review by June Louie, Sandra Enston and Balla Bhandar, Duncan, B.C.

We went to see my Dad.
Dad said "No, Rose!
You will not get married!"
I said, "Dad,
I have
my own life
to live."

I do not talk to him any more.

Then we went to see my Mum.

Mum said,
"I am proud
of you, Rose."

My Nephew...
Booker Jr.
by Sharon Barton

Publisher:
East End Literary Press
265 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 2G3

Distributor:
Pippin Publishing/
Dominie Press Limited
1361 Huntingwood Dr.
Unit 7
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada
M1S 3J1

9 pages

some photocopied
photographs

$2.00

My Nephew...Booker Jr.

by Sharon Barton

The story is about the adoption of a three-month-old boy from Children's Aid. He was adopted by his grandmother. About ten months later the grandmother died. The baby was able to stay with the rest of the family. The child was going to a special school when he was six months old. They would come around and pick him up in a special van because they were doing a survey of kids from low income families.

We thought the book was very good. The story made us feel happy, because we were glad that the boy had a good home. The part of the story we liked the best was when they said, "Once you get him talking, you can't shut him up." We were sorry to hear that the grandmother died in the story.

A review by Ann Brooke, Jim Booker, Bill Brooke Jr., Anne Welch and David Brenton, Duncan, B.C.

and so we still had him. He was going to a special school when he was 6 months old. They would come and pick him up in a special van. They were doing a survey about kids taken from low income families, who were being taught since they were babies.

This lady was the founder or the president of the school. This picture was taken by a newspaper doing a write up about this kind of learning. It was the Telegram, before it folded.

My Story
by Olive Bernard

Publisher:
Toronto Public Library
Board

Distributor:
Parkdale Project Read
Parkdale Public Library
1303 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M6K 1L6

27 pages

one black and white illustration opposite each page of text

$5.00

My Story

by Olive Bernard

This story is about a woman who moved to Canada in 1969. She didn't want to move to Canada because all her friends were at home in Jamaica. She moved because her mother persuaded her to come.

In the book she told about all her various jobs. She did housework and worked in factories. It made me feel sad, because if I moved somewhere and got different jobs all the time I wouldn't be happy. The part I liked the best was the end. She went to the Board of Education and started an upgrading course to become a health care aid.

The book is easy to read because the writing is nice and big. The pictures are understandable and well done. I think it would be of interest to many women because this book deals with real life.

A review by Tina McLaren, Duncan, B.C.

Ever since I came to Canada
I wanted to go back to school
but I was too afraid to let everyone know
that I could not read.
About 3 years ago, there was an article
in the paper about literacy programs
in the United States.
I wrote for more information about
programs in Canada.

They wrote back and told me to go to
the Citizenship and Culture
building downtown.
They told me to go to Parkdale.
I did go there and was amazed there were
other people there just like myself.

**No Way to Live:
Poor Women Speak
Out**
by Sheila Baxter

**Publisher:
New Star Books,
2504 York Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V6K 1E3**

**Distributor:
Sandhill Book Marketing
Box 197, Stn. A
Kelowna, B.C.
Canada
V1Y 7N5**

230 pages

**most chapters include
2 or 3 black and white
photographs**

$9.95

No Way to Live:
Poor Women Speak Out

by Sheila Baxter

This book is a collection of personal stories told to the author. The stories are very real and many women will be able to relate to them. The 50 women interviewed are very different, yet they are fighting the same kinds of battles. Group discussion will come naturally to women who are reading the stories together. They may also be able to work out some kinds of group action based on the actions described in the book.

What is perhaps most useful is the way in which the stories – and Sheila Baxter's writing around them – identify the issues so clearly. The very concrete nature of the writing not only makes the text easy to read. It also means that there is none of the usual academic "distancing" from women's lives.

The book includes stories from a social worker and a welfare advocate, as well as the texts of speeches from activists such as Dorothy O'Connell. There are many useful facts, figures and charts.

Some of the stories are four sentences long and are put on a page on their own. Some are four pages long. Almost all are readable at a basic to intermediate level, although the book as a whole may seem somewhat intimidating.

Overall, this book is an excellent example of something produced for the "mainstream" that works very well within the context of literacy programs.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

Star

Star is a twenty-eight-year-old white woman. She is a single mother with one child. She works as a waitress and depends on her tips to supplement her minimum wage salary.

My stepfather was always mad at me. He would hit me with anything that was near. He hated me. As soon as he came in at suppertime, he would say, "Get into your pyjamas and go to bed," even though it was only six o'clock. My mother would say, "But she has homework, and it's only six o'clock." But she was scared of him.

I always had to go to bed. I couldn't even keep the light on to do my homework. He would never let me do my homework, then the teachers would be mad because I hadn't done it. That's why I quit school at fourteen, that's why I'm poor. No education, no good job. And a lot of hate inside me. I'm no dummy, either. I survived the street. I'm only twenty-eight and I feel like an old woman. I'll always have a hard time with money. The struggle makes you old. Free daycare would help me, but I don't want no social worker messing around with me and my kid.

○

Now I Have Time
by Fujiye Kamikura

Publisher:
Vancouver Community College,
King Edward Campus
Box 24620, Station C
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V5T 4N3

Distributor:
same as publisher

25 pages

12 black and white photographs

$2.00

Now I Have Time

by Fujiye Kamikura

Fujiye takes us on a very personal journey through time and life, starting in Japan in 1909. She tells about immigration to Canada, her marriage and family, "internment" during the war, and "starting again." Fujiye tells her story with great dignity. Life is never easy, but her pride and spirit come through strongly in her words and pictures.

Fujiye worked on a seed farm, in a hospital, in a rooming house and she did alterations for a dry cleaning store, before she retired at the age of 65. The death of her husband brought new changes. She had to depend on a daughter for everything and "that was no good." At over 70 years old, she went back to school. She wanted to talk to her grandchildren, who speak only English. "That's why I want to learn. Now I have time," she says.

Fujiye's words and feelings are enriched by twelve of her personal photographs. The design, print and spacing make the booklet even more attractive to pick up. Even though the text is line broken and divided into eight short chapters, beginner readers would probably need someone to read the book with them.

The story flows well and is always interesting. It is a good resource for learning about Japanese-Canadian history and culture from an immigrant woman's perspective. It could also be useful in group discussion to counter some of the stereotypes that still find their way into "popular culture."

A review by Nancy Miller, Toronto, Ontario

The next night we stayed in a tent
in Slocan City.
All night there were funny noises.
The next morning about 5 o'clock
the tent came down. So much snow -
it was very cold.

Then the government said,
"You go to this or that house."
So we went to Bay Farm
and lived in a small house
with one other family.
We didn't know them.

Ontario Driver's Manual – Adapted for Adult New Readers
by Douglas J. Cowan
and Carolyn Youssef

Publisher:
Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications
c/o Public and Safety Information Branch
Downsview, Ontario
Canada
M3M 1J8

Distributor:
same as publisher

42 pages

black and white illustrations

Free

Ontario Driver's Manual:
Adapted for Adult New Readers

by J. Douglas Cowan and Carolyn Youssef

This manual gives information about the driving rules and laws for people who want to get their driver's license in Ontario. The standard manual has been rewritten for people who may have difficulty reading. It will be good for women who are beginning to read and women who have a vision disability.

This booklet is about the Ontario rules and laws. Some of the information may be different for other provinces and women will have to check with their own provincial government vehicle office.

Women who want their driver's license will be able to use this manual, even if they need someone to read it with them the first few times. It might also be useful to play some of the board games about driving to support some of the information.

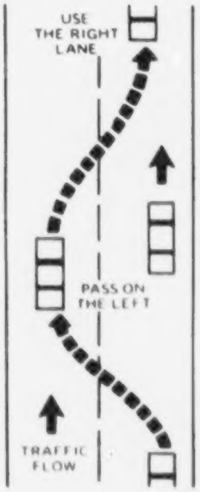
The black and white diagrams of cars moving on the road and of road signs are very clear. It is helpful to use a regular driver's manual at the same time because the regular manual has diagrams with colour codes that make it clear what is happening.

Women who look at this manual with the regular driver's manual can also start to understand how writing is often made harder than it needs to be.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

Steps in Passing on Two Lane Roads

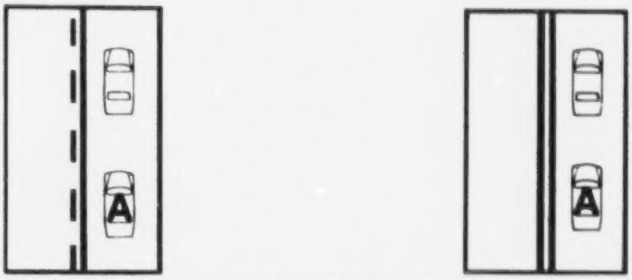
1. See that no cars are coming toward you.
2. Check your rear view mirror to see if a car is about to pass you.
3. Signal that you are about to change lanes.
4. After you pass the car, signal that you are again changing lanes.
5. Return to the right lane. Do not return too soon. Be sure that the car you have just passed is far enough behind you before you return to the right lane.



PASSING ON TWO LANE ROADS

Highway Dividing Lines

You must not pass if a solid yellow line is in your lane, or on your side of the highway. Never cross double solid yellow lines to pass another car.



"A" MUST NOT PASS

Our Lives
by Jean Unda and a writing team of participants and instructors

Publisher:
Toronto Board of Education
155 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5T 1P6

Distributor:
Adult Administrative Resource Centre East
c/o CALC
1 Danforth Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M4K 1M8

48 pages

photographs and illustrations throughout the text

$5.00

Our Lives

by Jean Unda and a writing team

This booklet was put together by Portuguese women in three different ESL (English as a Second Language) classes in Toronto. The women tell their own stories about their lives in Portugal and in Toronto. They talk about their hopes and their disappointments. The women in the booklet seem very honest and clear about their lives.

The instructors have taken the women's stories and used them to develop language activities which are also included in the booklet.

This book will be particularly interesting to Portuguese women and women living in Toronto, but many other women will also be able to enjoy these stories. The sections such as housework, children, paid jobs, unions and strikes can be used for further discussion. The activities can be adapted to work with other stories.

This book can also be used by women to develop their own material. It has many excellent ideas about how to help women talk about their experiences. The grammar exercises seem to come very naturally out of the writing and show how to combine a more structured and unstructured approach.

Women who want to talk about coming to Canada from other parts of the world may be able to use the booklet as a model. Seeing how other women discuss their experiences – not always positive – may help clear the way.

The emphasis on developing and expressing opinions can provide a good model as well. In many materials, this element of the learning process is left out.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

Our Lives in Canada

Canada is a beautiful country but our first few years here were very difficult because we didn't speak the language. We felt isolated and many of us didn't have any family in Canada. We had difficulty finding housing because we had small children. Many of us were forced to leave our children at home with our husbands in order to work. One of us went out to work after only two days in Canada. Also, we were moving from small towns into a large city, and life was so difficult for us.

Rhythm an' Hardtimes
by Lillian Allen

Publisher:
Verse to Vinyl
Publishing
P.O. Box 311, Stn E
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5H 4E3

Distributor:
same as publisher

16 pages

$5.00 (book)
$10.00 (cassette)

Rhythm an' Hardtimes

by Lillian Allen

Lillian Allen is a poet. She was born in Jamaica, moved to Canada and has lived here for almost twenty years.

Rhythm an' Hardtimes is about hard times, written from the point of view of a Black woman. But she is a very determined person. When she wants something, she goes for it. She fights back. "I fight back" is the title of one of our favourite poems.

Lillian Allen also talks about the struggle for liberation from men who try to tell us who we are and what we should be like. The book has lighter poems, too. *Back Chatting* is about a little girl who stands up to a busybody called Big Ass Miss P.

The book is especially interesting for women from the Caribbean. We came here in search of new experiences. We took advantage of opportunites for work, and we stayed, in spite of the cold! Lillian Allen made us remember what it was like to come to Canada.

Some of the poems are hard to read because they are in Patois. But as Lillian says in the book, "My work is definitely not meant to lay still on the written page but to be performed." Her poems are also available in cassette and record form. Have a listen, if you can.

The book is hard to read. Some of the poems are in very small type and the titles are not clear. The poems could be spaced better.

But the book is good. We think women would like to read it.

A review by Cherry Clue, Frances Cullinane, Annmarie Hall, Diane Ellson and Vivian Stollmeyer, Toronto, Ontario

Black Woman's Blues

Misused
Abused
Confused

Thrown around
And trampled down

Played first fiddle
        second fiddle
        third fiddle
        fourth fiddle
        Bass

Kicked out of the Band

(In Toronto they say there is a rift between the
Black woman and her man)

Black Woman True

Battered in the wind
Through drought and hurricane
Black woman true

In the dessert sun
Beaten by the sand
African seed on dryland
Black women true

Like the cactus
firm against the jagged rocks
She bears her fruits
And even flower sometimes
Black women true

Black women true
Black women true

(For Esemerelda, an everblooming cactus)

She's Speaking Out
by Janet Ryan

Publisher:
Parkdale People's Press
Parkdale Project Read
1303 Queen Street W.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M6K 1L6

Distributor:
same as publisher

38 pages

17 black and white illustrations

$5.00

She's Speaking Out

by Janet Ryan

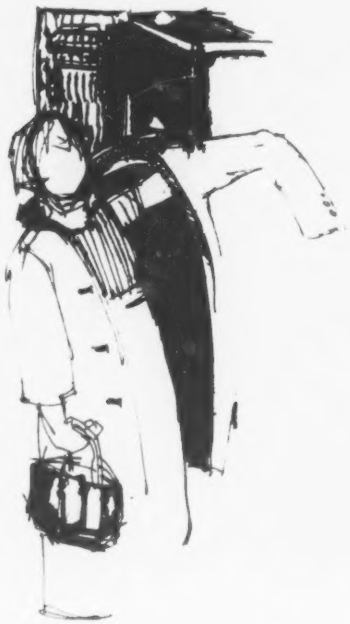
This book is a good read from the first page to the last. Janet has a way of telling a story that makes you feel like you are sitting with her, hearing her words.

She takes you into her world as a child. The drawings, done by Diane Collins, are great. They show the expressions on people's faces. Janet has difficulty at school. She has more difficulty in high school, because by this time she is in a class where no one is learning anything. Then she has difficulty finding work. Her father tries to help by filling out her job application forms, but employers want someone on the job who can read and write, at least a little. She gets laid off again and again.

The next part is very sad. Janet's father and her brother die. Soon after, Janet leaves her mother's house because she cannot get along with her. Janet ends up moving from place to place.

Then Janet moves to the west end. One day, in the laundromat, she sees the phone number of a place called Parkdale Project Read. She goes there and things start to pick up. She finds more there than just learning to read and write. She helps plan literacy events, and speaks out to encourage other people to get involved and to teach the public about literacy. Her last words in the story are an invitation to the reader: "why don't you come to a program and give it a try."

A review by Vivian Stollmeyer, Toronto, Ontario



I went to my locker
and got my coat.
I went home and cried.

Silenced
by Makeda Silvera

Publisher:
Sister Vision Press
P.O. Box 217, Stn E
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M6H 4E2

Distributor:
University of Toronto Press
5201 Dufferin Street
Downsview, Ontario
Canada
M6H 5T8

136 pages

no illustrations

$11.95

Silenced

by Makeda Silvera

I was reading the book, **Silenced,** and the tears came to my eyes. These are stories of domestic workers from the Caribbean. I never knew that people could treat other human beings like that. I always hear people say that Canada and the USA are places of milk and honey and opportunity. But this book tells a different story. These women go through a life of pure misery. It's like they live in jail. A lot of the women talk about Church. I think the Church and knowing that their children are back in the country they came from, make them want to go on.

For example, one of the women in this book writes about how her employer treats her when she washes her clothes:

"One day she ask me how I wash her panties and brassieres and I told her in the washer and she was very rude to me. I remember that night I went to bed and cry out to the Lord to take me out of that house."(p. 27)

I think all people should read the book, **Silenced**. Domestic workers would know that they have someone out there to listen to them and help them with their problems, other than Immigration. When women take domestic jobs the employer tells them one thing, and as time goes by, they just keep adding work and no more money. This book tells you about organizations you can go to for help.

A review by Annmarie Hall, Toronto, Ontario

CHILDHOOD

"I wanted so much to touch the snow"

I was about six or seven when I started hearing about England, Canada, and the United States. Is like everybody in the Caribbean talking about foreign. I remember sometimes my uncle, which is my grandmother son, use to send us old newspaper from the States and we use to read them from back to cover, what we couldn't read we ask somebody bigger to read, or just look at the pictures. I remember the first year when he was away, he would send and tell us how wonderful America was, and how you could get everything to buy. We as children use to be praying for the time when we would be big enough to travel abroad. It seem that everybody in my family lived abroad.

My own mother was in England and marry over there and had a new family. I lived in St. Lucia with my grandmother. One aunt, my mother's sister, was in Canada and my uncle and another aunt in America. Whenever they use to come home Christmas time it was always a big event to us. Is like they carry home all of America and Canada in their suitcase. The amount of pretty clothes and shoes. Boy, and the pictures, I use to look forward to those postcards of the Statue of Liberty, City Hall, and those big building and cars and the snow. I remember I just wanted so much to touch the snow.

From I was around nine, I know I was going to leave St. Lucia. I came from a large family, three brothers and myself, and lots of cousins. It was good, because you always had somebody to play with and talk secrets with, but then you know, sometimes the house was crowded. Sometimes we had to eat the same thing every day, depending on whether we got money from my mother or uncles in America. Sometimes things was a bit rough, but we was happy most of the times.

I did a little high school but I drop out, it was hard to go when the parcels from my mother stopped coming . . . sometimes I didn't have shoes to wear, and I was too proud to go to school without shoes. Sometimes I wouldn't go to school, and other time I would borrow my cousin's shoes to wear and she would stay home from school. She would go one or two days and then I would go the other two days. But that way you miss a lot of the school, so eventually I just stop and stay home and look after my younger cousins and sometimes wash clothes for a family that live nearby.

A Story about Cedar Bark
by Upper Sto:lo Interaction

Publisher:
Sto:lo Sitel Curriculum Committee
Coqualeetza Education Training Centre
Box 370
Sardis, B.C.
Canada
V2R 1A7

Distributor:
same as publisher

36 pages

black and white photographs throughout

$3.98

A Story about Cedar Bark

by Upper Sto:lo Interaction

This true story is about some of the traditions of Sto:lo Indians who live near Harrison Lake, B.C. It would be interesting to readers everywhere. This story is about two sisters who see cedar bark capes and skirts at the opening ceremony for their new school and run to ask their granny about them. Granny Margie takes them to the woods to show them how to get the cedar bark. First she talks to the tree to honour it and thank it and leaves a gift of a small weaving. Then she shows them how to take the bark off the tree. The most interesting part for me was learning how they make capes and skirts from cedar bark. It takes a lot of work to make the bark soft before weaving it into clothes.

Reading this story made me think about how different their lives are from my own. Native people have more traditions than we have. They have more respect for nature too.

The book is easy to read, but it would be helpful to have a guide for pronouncing the Native words. I would enjoy reading this book again and would recommend it to others.

A review by Cecilia Higgs, New Westminster, B.C.

They went for a walk to their Granny Margie's house. By the time they got there, they were soaked and cold. The rain had gone right through their little shawls and through their clothes.

"You girls come in here," Granny Margie said. "You'd better not play outside on a day like this unless you've got one of our old cedar bark capes!" Rica and Michelle looked at their granny. How did she know?

The girls came in, dried off, and had some soup and bread. Wrapped up in blankets, they sat on the couch next to their Granny's wood stove. Their granny was knitting. The rain still poured down.

"When I was a young girl," their granny said, "I stayed inside on rainy days in the fall. I would make string

The Story of
Hattie Flint Gabriel
by Ida Gabriel

Publisher:
North Branch
Library Adult Basic
Upgrading Program
c/o Halifax City
Regional Library
5381 Spring Garden Rd.
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada
B3J 1E9

Distributor:
same as publisher

10 pages

photographs, illustrations, line drawings and newspaper reproductions throughout

Free (upon availability)

The Story of Hattie Flint Gabriel

by Ida Gabriel

This booklet was put together by a woman in the North Branch Library Upgrading Program in Halifax. Ida Gabriel writes about her mother's life, using stories her mother told her.

The story is so well told and with such good illustrations that you feel like you know Hattie and her life. There is information about changes that have taken place in the last 100 years – not all of them for the better.

Women in literacy programs will be interested in this writing by another learner. The way the book is put together will help them see how they could be involved in writing as well.

This book will be interesting for other Black women. The Nova Scotia Black community is very old and very established. It is useful for everyone to see how much the members of this community have been a part of our history. For example, Hattie's husband and children worked in the coal mines – but we do not often hear about Black labour in these settings. Ida Gabriel manages to talk about some of the issues of race in a straightforward way and with humour.

Some women may want to look at more Nova Scotia history when they read this book.

There are a great many excellent illustrations in the booklet. They add a lot to the text. There are photographs, line drawings, graphics and newspaper reproductions.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

My mother is 100 years old. She has seen a lot in her day. Many things have changed over the years and she has told me lots of stories about what happened in her life. Some of these stories are in this book.

The Story of
Nellie McClung
by Anne Monaghan

Publisher:
Canadian Library Assoc
200 Elgin Street, Ste 602
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K2P 1L5

Distributor:
same as publisher

21 pages

4 black and white
photographs

$2.25

The Story of Nellie McClung

by Anne Monaghan

I have always liked everything I've read about Nellie McClung. Maybe it's because she was such a strong and compelling woman. This booklet gives a series of snapshot views of Nellie McClung and the times she lived in. What comes across is that she was a very balanced woman, living in a time when women were seriously undervalued.

Nellie McClung had very strong opinions, but she was also able to laugh, both at herself and the situations she got herself into. She did things no one else would have thought of doing. For example, she took the Premier of Manitoba to see for himself what the working conditions of poor women were like. She disagreed with the balance of power between her parents, yet she never argued with her mother's beliefs. What she did, instead, was to bring up her daughters in the belief that they were powerful beings too, and did not have to defer to men.

The booklet tells us that Nellie McClung wrote a lot. I think that I will look to her writing next for more information about this strong woman. It will be interesting to go beyond the snapshots, and read her own thoughts, feelings, and opinions about her life and times.

A review by Vivian Stollmeyer, Toronto, Ontario.

CHAPTER 4

KNOW YOUR PLACE!

Nellie had to keep a lot of her ideas to herself. She knew her mother would not agree. In those days, children did what their parents told them to do without question. Nellie was not afraid of her mother. She respected her. She knew her mother was not right all the time, but she never went against her.

Nellie's mother was a hard-working woman. She believed that it was a woman's duty to do what her husband told her to do. She thought that men should lead the way in life and that women should follow.

Nellie believed that women were as good as men. She believed that women could make the world a better place if they had more say in running their lives.

Girls grew up taking orders from their husbands. When their husbands died, their sons told them what to do.

Taking Care:
A handbook about
women's health
by Mary Breen

Publisher:
The Women's Health
Project
c/o Peterborough YWCA
216 Simcoe Street
Peterborough, Ontario
Canada
K9H 2H7

Distributor:
Same as publisher

403 pages

some small illustrations

free to individuals
institutions pay handling
costs

Taking Care:
A handbook about women's health

by Mary Breen

This book about women's health was sponsored by the YWCA in Peterborough, Ontario. They wanted women to have health information that was easy to read and understand. Many women took part in the writing process.

The book covers a lot of topics and looks at "health" and not just "sickness." The chapters include: Eating Well, Dealing with Your "Nerves," Depression, Being Active, Controlling your Weight, Over-the-Counter Drugs, You and Your Doctor, Sex, Birth Control, Vaginal Infections, Pap Tests, Examining Your Breasts and Menopause.

Each page of the book is full of text and there are very few illustrations.

Some women may feel uncomfortable with the tone of the book. It may seem to be saying that women who do not read well will also have difficulty understanding the facts or ideas. In fact, many women who do not read well understand the reality better than women who read easily.

The book can be used to help women understand how their bodies work and what they can do to make them work better. It can be used to help women build their vocabulary of words that are useful when talking to healthcare professionals.

Except for a small section on "homosexuality," all information about sex and other health issues, assumes that the women readers are heterosexual. Lesbians will want to look elsewhere for more information about their sexuality.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

Getting help for your depression.

"Who should I talk to?"

You could talk with a therapist, a social worker, or a counsellor. You could also talk with a member of the clergy, a psychologist, or a psychiatrist. You could also join a self-help group.

If you want to find a good therapist, the best way is to ask around.

- Ask someone who has been depressed. Ask them who they talked to.
- Ask your doctor or your public health nurse to recommend someone.
- Ask the local Canadian Mental Health Association.
- Ask a Women's Referral Centre.
- Ask a Family Counselling Service. Family Counselling Services have counsellors who will see you by yourself or with members of your family. Their fees are very low or free for people with low incomes.

Finding the right therapist for you is a very personal thing. The therapist who is best for you may not be best for someone else.

The Teaching of the Elders
by Students of the Native Indian Education and Care Program

Publisher:
Health and Welfare Canada
Medical Services Branch
Pacific Region

Distributor:
Health and Welfare Communications Directorate
19th Floor
Jeanne Mance Bldg.
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0K9

30 pages

12 illustrations

Free

The Teaching of the Elders

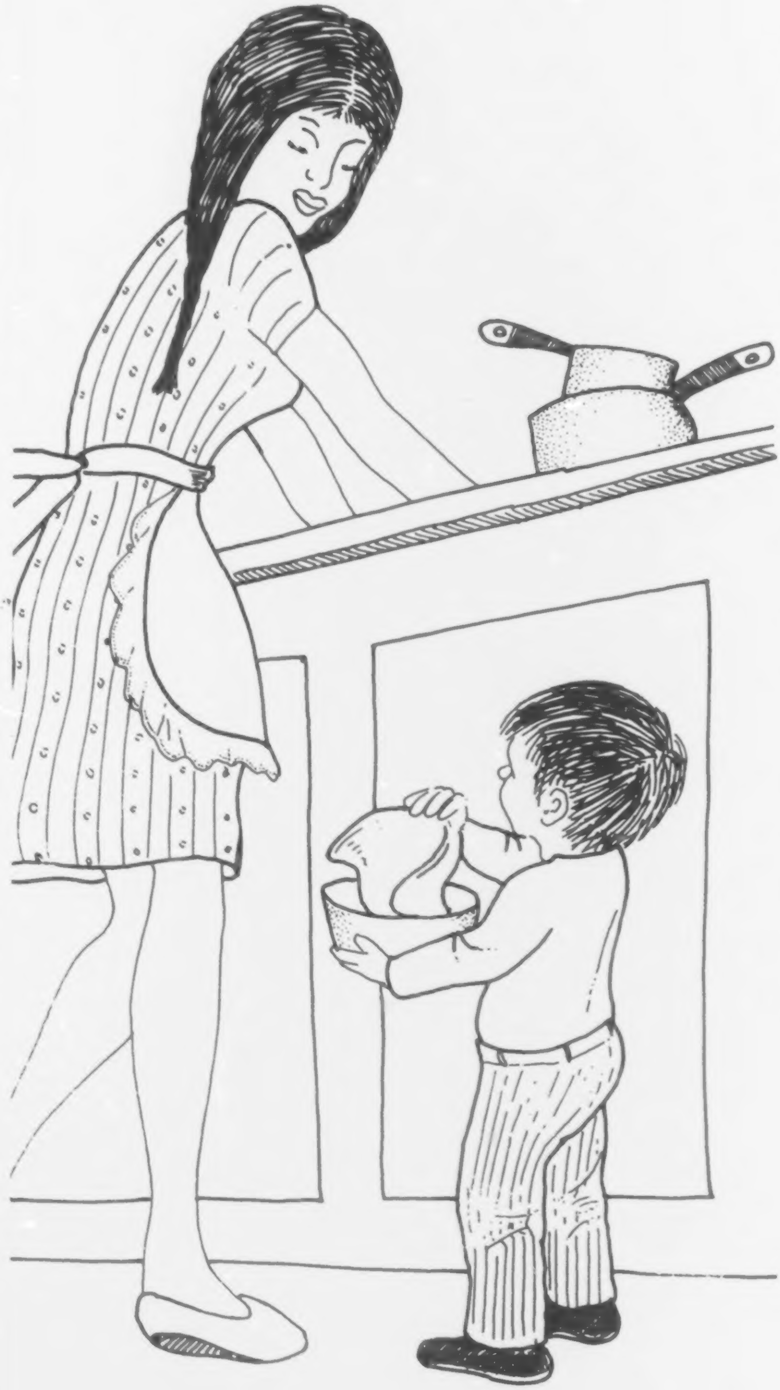
by Students of the Native Indian Education and Care Program

The Teaching of the Elders is written by students in the Native Indian Education and Care program. They listened to one of the Elders, Norah George, and wrote down what she said. She taught women about how to be healthy when they are pregnant and how to have an easy delivery. She also taught them what to teach children so they grow up to be good people and respect their traditions.

Most of the pages have only a few lines of words on them. Many of them have drawings that show parents and children together.

The book tells how boys are taught to respect girls and everyone is taught to respect the Elders, be alert and be responsible. The book may lead to conversations about how to teach your children. Also you can compare your traditions to the traditions of the Salish people. Many women will enjoy talking about this book.

A review by Evelyn Battell, Duncan, B.C.



THINGS THE ELDERS SAY

Children should be made to do their own chores, e.g., dishes, sweeping floors, making their own bed, and chopping wood.

THE TEACHING

Teach the children the crafts.

Don't worry that they are too small. Make them do it properly. Have them do it over and over until they have done it properly.

Teachings from our Elders
by Elders of the Sto:lo Nation

Publisher:
Sto:lo Sitel Curriculum Committee
Box 370
Sardis, B.C.
Canada
V2R 1A7

Distributor:
same as publisher

46 pages

black and white photographs throughout

$3.98

Teachings from our Elders

by the Elders of the Sto:lo Nation

This book is an enlightening, collaborative effort by the Elders of the Sto:lo Nation. Its purpose is to instruct the new generations of the tribe, as well as to promote a better understanding of Indian traditions for non-Indians.

This is a good book for youngsters or those with limited reading skills, because it is simply written. The lessons hold much value. Respect is not a concept limited to Indian people; this book reminds us it is universal.

I particularly liked the passages by Edna Bobb. Her writing about thanking each little bush for helping her up the mountain, or praying to God that she will not see a snake, were highlights of the book for me.

My only criticism would be that some of the explanation pages, especially pages eleven and thirty, are unnecessary. I feel they simply distract the reader, and take away from the impact of the teachings.

A review by Shirley Duemo, Ganges, B.C.

Another way to understand Mrs. Pete is to hear another Sto:lo teaching:

* * *

You were supposed to wash your tears away with water, when you lost someone you loved.

If you washed your tears with water, it would protect you against future sorrow.

Frank Malloway

Traditional Lifetime Stories: A Collection of Black Memories, Vol. 1

Publisher:
Black Cultural Centre
for Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 2128
East Dartmouth,
Nova Scotia, Canada
B2W 3V2

Distributor:
same as publisher

104 pages

1 small photograph
at the beginning
of each story

$10.00

Traditional Lifetime Stories:
A Collection of Black Memories, Vol. 1.

This book tells the stories of 22 Black Nova Scotians – 15 of them women – who were at least 70 years old in 1982. The three to five page stories trace family histories and describe experiences of living, working and raising children. The stories are adapted from interviews and each contains quotes from the person interviewed.

This book provides a refreshing slice of the living history of Black Nova Scotian women. This is not commonly found – especially in such an easy to read format. Black women in the province will find their roots in this book. White women will see a part of their history they have not been taught in school. Women outside Nova Scotia will understand that in this province the experience of the Black community is not an immigrant experience. The community has lived and struggled in Nova Scotia for over 300 years.

The historical background contained in the introductory section puts in context the words of a woman such as Amelia Brown who went to school in East Preston:

> "I was only in grade 4 when I left. I had to be home, on the farm, helping out around home. I looked after the house and then I got to such an age I went out to service. Service is housework, cleaning around Halifax and Dartmouth. I worked for white people. I made three or four dollars a day. Then I had to share it with my parents."

Women may find this book inspires them to write their own histories, or the stories of their older relatives or friends. It can be used in projects such as map work or family trees. It will be of interest to women who are curious about biographies, the older generations or Nova Scotia history.

A review by Meredith Hutchings, Ida Mae Robert and Pierre Taschereau, Halifax, N.S.

Traditional Lifetime Stories: Gertrude Smith

Gertrude Smith was born in East Preston in 1898. Her parents were also born in East Preston. Of her grandparents she recalled that her information was that they came as slaves, presumably from the United States and that they lived in Maroon Hill before moving to East Preston.

Of her parents, Gertrude said that her mother was literate but that her father had very little education. He relied on his children for any reading or writing.

Her father worked on the farms of white people in Cole Harbour tending livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs and horses) and tilling the gardens. When her father had saved some money, he bought a house and a hay barn from Benson Smithers, a black minister in the community.

Gertrude remembered her school teachers, one Mr. Gemmond from the West Indies and Martha Jones from Truro. Hers was the famous one-room school with classes from grades 1-9.

She recalled the visits to the community by black baptist ministers, like Rev. Dixon who came from Africville. He would come on a Saturday night, stay with friends and conduct the evening service on Sunday. According to Gertrude Smith there was no morning service on Sunday at that time.

Two Letters from Upper Canada
by Carolyn Barnes

Publisher:
Canadian Library Assoc.
200 Elgin Street, Ste 602
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K2P 1L5

Distributor:
same as publisher

13 pages

3 black and white line drawings

$2.25

Two Letters from Upper Canada

by Carolyn Barnes

This booklet is made up of two fictional letters written by a British woman in Upper Canada in 1835. The letters talk about coming to settle in Canada. They focus on clearing land and building a house. The letters do not mention much about the work that the women did. The illustrations do not show women working.

The letters in this booklet are long but the sentences repeat many of the same words. It would be easy to read, but some people could be bored by it. The introduction to this booklet says "The people who come to Canada write letters. They write letters to their family and to their friends back home." Women could talk about how people who come to Canada and cannot read and write keep in touch with their friends and family.

The letters in this booklet talk about what life was like in Canada for some people more than one hundred and fifty years ago. Women who have come to Canada more recently may like to talk about how their experience is similar to, or different from, the view presented in these letters.

This booklet could be used as one part of some lessons on how and why people come to Canada. It would be useful only if other books were also studied. The message this book seems to convey is at the end of the second letter. It says "We have to work hard. We do not care. The harder we work, the better things will be for us." Without other points of view, women might not speak about how "better things" do not only depend on hard work.

A review by Tannis Atkinson, Toronto, Ontario

Springtown, Upper Canada
May 7, 1835

My dear sister,

How are you? I miss you, Anne. I miss Mother and Father, too. And I miss my home. I miss England.

Are you well? Robert and I are well, but I am not happy. Robert and I are happy together, but I am not happy in Upper Canada. I am very homesick.

Robert is not homesick. He says Upper Canada is our home.

But it is not, not for me. Upper Canada will be home to our children, but England is home to me.

But let me tell you about Upper Canada. Let me tell you what happened to us after we left England.

We left home two months ago. Think of it! A lot has happened in just two months.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

We Make the Clothes
by Nomi Wall with Monaco Group ESL Class

Publisher:
Toronto Board of Education
155 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5T 1P6

Distributor:
Adult Administrative Resource Centre East
c/o CALC
1 Danforth Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4K 1M8
Canada

24 pages

$5.00

We Make the Clothes

by Nomi Wall with Monaco Group ESL Class

This photostory was put together by women in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program at a clothes factory in Toronto. It shows the production process for a piece of clothing from start to finish. Each part in the process is given a photo and a line or two of text.

The booklet also contains an introduction. The first two sections are for instructors and the last section could be used by all program participants. It is unfortunate that not all women would be able to understand and use the whole book. The first two sections are much more difficult to read. The vocabulary is more advanced, the print is small and the lines are very long.

Even though not everyone will be able to read it, the outline of the process of putting the photostory together is excellent. Many women in programs will be able to work on the same kind of material once they have read the suggestions on research, text, photographs and making the book. They could rewrite and reproduce the information so that it can be shared with all the participants. Then, everyone will know what is involved and can make some decisions about how to do it.

Many of the women who work in the garment industry are immigrant women. We feel they would be very interested in this booklet. Many women will identify with the piecework, other manufacturing processes and the working conditions displayed in the photos. Women who do not work in factories will get a good idea of what that work is like.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

Wai Hing is serging the seams of the unlined jacket. If the jacket is lined, it does not need to be serged.

Fatima is setting collars in the jackets.

The Weavers
by Jenny Nelson

Publisher:
Pacific Educational Press
Faculty of Education
University of B.C.
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V6T 1Z5

Distributor:
same as publisher

28 pages

4-colour pictures throughout

$16.00

The Weavers

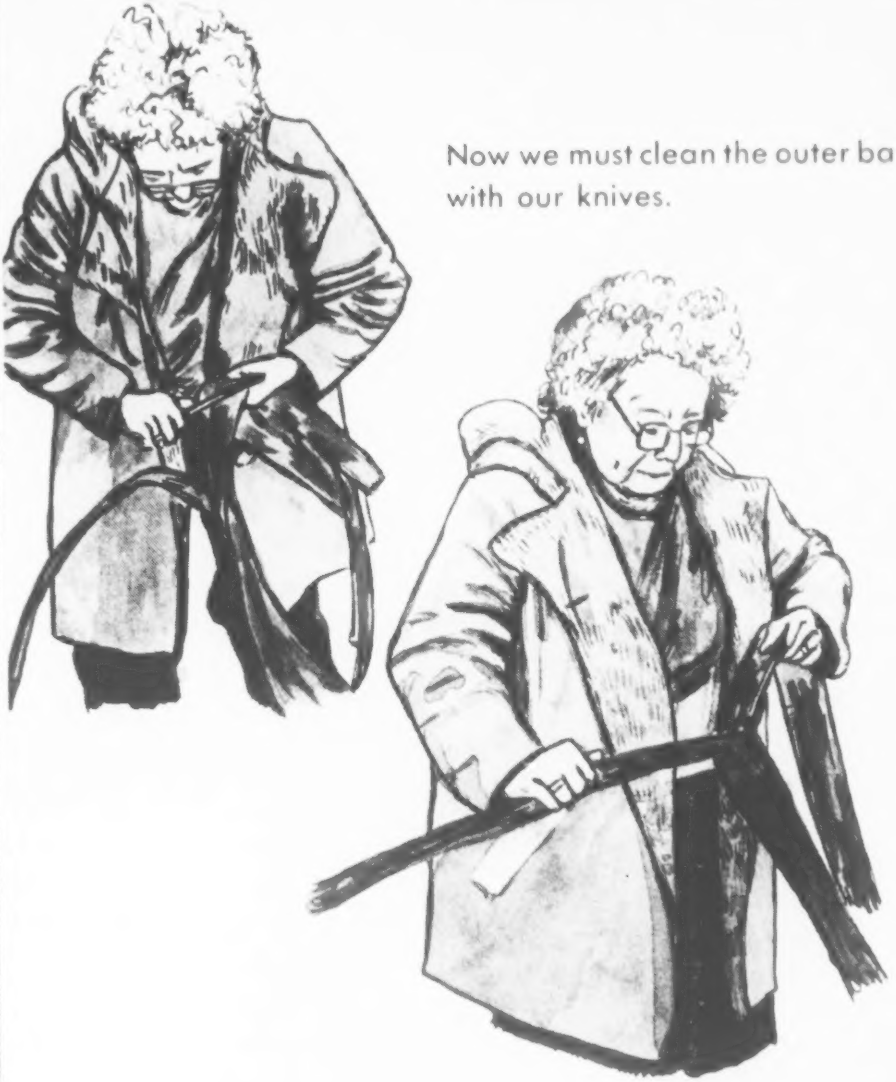
by Jenny Nelson

The Weavers is a children's book but it is so full of good and interesting information that it is suited to all ages. The book is about weaving. It shows how to get the bark from the trees and roots to prepare it for the weaving. It shows how to wash, soak, dye and then dry the bark.

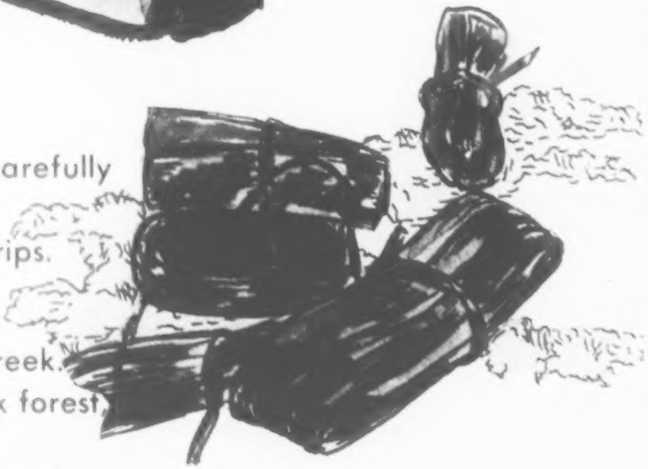
The book is well done because the writing tells exactly what the pictures are saying. The book would be well-accepted throughout Canada. All people would enjoy it, but it would be especially useful for a weaving class.

A review by Roseanne Sam and Manda McGonigle, Duncan, B.C.

Now we must clean the outer bark away
with our knives.



Then we fold each long piece carefully
into little cedar bundles.
We tie each one with cedar strips.



We sit by our grandmothers' creek.
The creek flows out of the dark forest,
into the sea.
We tell stories, and laugh and laugh at
our own jokes.

Woman of Labrador
by Elizabeth Goudie

Publisher:
Irwin Publishing
1800 Steeles Ave. W.
Concord, Ontario
Canada
L4K 2P3

Distributor:
same as publisher

166 pages

photographs and maps
are in a separate section

$8.95

Woman of Labrador

by Elizabeth Goudie

This book was written by a woman who raised eight children, fished, hunted and coped with the cold of Labrador. Her husband was a trapper and she was alone most of each year. She tells her story very simply and with great love for the earth and the animals on it.

Elizabeth Goudie was born in 1902 in Mud Lake, Labrador. She had four years of school and learned how to live on the land by working with her parents. Married at 18, she hunted and trapped with her husband until she began having children two years later.

This book is divided into many chapters and each chapter has several sections. The chapter on "A new life for Labradorians" is 20 pages long. There are four sections, including one called "The Death of My Husband" which many women will identify with.

This book is long, but each part is interesting in itself. The language is clear and concrete. The stories are about day-to-day experiences that are common to many women, even though the setting may be very different. Women may be interested in writing about how the stories relate to their own lives.

Tutors might want to photocopy some of the pages and group the sections into smaller pieces, so that the first impression of the text is not overwhelming.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

everyone would stay in the house and rest. We would be glad to get a rest.

Mail service

Mail from Canada and Newfoundland was brought to Battle Harbour by the Newfoundland steamer and it would then have to travel up the coast by dog team. There were about four teams to cover the coast from Battle Harbour to Nain. Jim Saunders* was one of the men who helped take the mail from Makkovik to Nain. That's between eighty and ninety miles. It would take him about four days in fine weather and the pay was twenty dollars a trip. So you can see what it was like back in the early 1900s. I suppose it was more complicated before that.

Midwife at eighteen

During the first year I was married there was a woman expecting a baby and the nearest midwife was about twenty miles away. The woman's family were going to get the midwife two weeks before the baby was due, but a cold snap of weather came and the waters partly froze up. They could not get the midwife. It was in November when the baby came and I had to act as midwife. I got along all right with the help of an old man who was there. I was so afraid I would lose the mother or the baby. I was sick in bed for three days after, but the mother lived and her son lived also.

Winter fish supply

These were the kind of things we had to go through to live and get along in Labrador. As time moved on and I recovered from the shock, the ice completely froze over. I went to catch trout for my winter. I walked four miles and carried enough food for a week. I caught about 500 trout. I built a scaffold and put my trout up where the little animals could not get at them and covered them over with boughs of the trees so the birds could not steal them. I went back home for a while until the ice was nice and strong.

---

*Freeman Saunders was his father.

Women and AIDS
by Theresa Dobko

Publisher:
AIDS Committee
of Toronto
Box 55, Station F
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M4Y 2L4

Distributor:
same as publisher

24 pages

$0.25

Women and AIDS

by Theresa Dobko

This booklet gives information about women and AIDS. It talks about how you can get AIDS and how you can protect yourself. There is information about different kinds of sex, about drugs and needles, and about having children if you think you might have AIDS. It is for both heterosexual and lesbian women.

Some of the information is very frank. It uses words that some women may find shocking. Other women may be glad to read words that they already know and use. Tutors using this booklet need to think about how comfortable they and their learners will be with different kinds of language. They will need to be able to deal with the many different responses they will get.

Here is an example of the kind of writing in most of the booklet:

> "Safer sex starts with talking about sex. You both need to talk about your pasts. But we cannot always trust our memories."

Here is an example of the kind of writing that may be hard for some women to read:

> "VERY RISKY SEX: using a hand in the vagina or anus ("fisting") if you have open cuts, sores or rashes on your hand."

Women may use this booklet as part of a larger discussion about AIDS, about sexuality and about discrimination against lesbians. It would be very useful for women who are working with women around health and sexuality – as long as they feel comfortable and use it with sensitivity.

A review by the Halifax Working Group, Halifax, N.S.

TESTING FOR AIDS

There is a blood test for this virus. It is called an "antibody" test. It is **not** necessary for every woman to take this test. If you think you may have HIV, do not take the test before talking to a doctor, clinic or AIDS committee who **knows a lot** about AIDS. You will need good counselling before and after the test. Part of the counselling will be to decide if you are really at risk.

LESBIANS AND AIDS

Women who have sex only with other women are called lesbians, or gay women. If a woman has sex only with other women, and if she never shares needles, there is little chance she will get AIDS. Remember that HIV spreads best from men to their sex partners. Since lesbians are not taking male cum into their bodies, the risk of AIDS is very low.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Women's Kit
by the Participatory Research Group

Publisher:
Participatory Research Group
394 Euclid Avenue, Suite 308
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M6G 2S9

Distributor:
same as publisher

each booklet has 12 pages

approximately 8 illustrations or cartoons in each booklet

$25.00

Women's Kit

by the Participatory Research Group

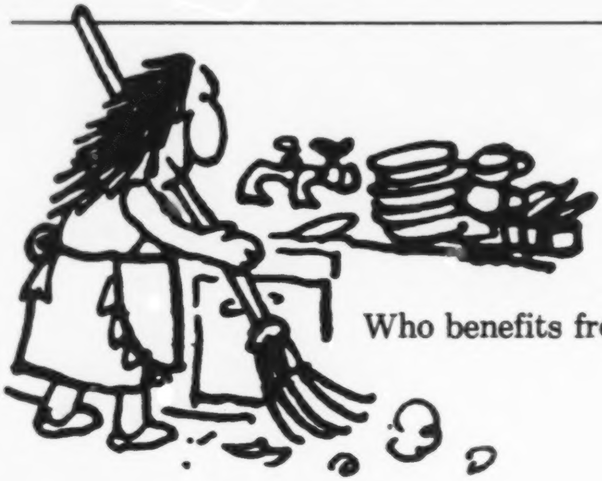
The **Women's Kit** is a set of eight booklets written about women in several parts of the world. The topics include: finding paid work; housework; health; child care; women's days; women working together; violence in the home; and working conditions. The covers are colourful, the stories are short, and drawings and cartoons add interest and illustrate some of the problems and attitudes women face.

The women in my class enjoyed the stories. They found the print and sentences easy to read. They could relate to most of the situations, even if just to compare the circumstances of others' jobs, families and housework to their own.

The students liked the idea that the stories were based on reality and were about women. For some students, the booklets increased the awareness of the universality of women's problems. Other women commented that they already knew of the problems and that we should be helping to change things, an indication that the booklets had provided a nudge toward some action.

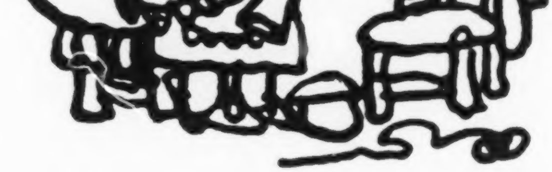
There was a wide range of reading abilities in the class that read the booklets. A student who found the reading difficult said that the cartoons and pictures helped a lot. Although most of the students found the reading easy to understand, even the most advanced student had trouble with some of the vocabulary and expressions such as "got the sack." However, most of the ideas and language are straightforward and result in good group discussions. The booklets would be suitable for individual or one-to-one set-tings as well. For use in a group, some pre-reading preparation would be required for vocabulary and expressions; otherwise only an introduction would be necessary.

A review by Erica Bresee, Powell River, B.C.



Who benefits from our work?

Our husbands do, so that they can have enough energy to go to work. The business owners do, because they profit from our husbands' work. Our children, the future workers, do, because we help their development. Mexicans do, because they are consumers of the goods produced by our husbands. Society benefits, because without our work, the country itself could not exist any more.



Working Skills for Immigrant Women
by Florence Guy

Publisher:
Working Skills Centre of Ontario
604 King Street West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5V 1M6

Distributor:
same as publisher

184 pages

10 illustrations
5 photographs

Free
(please add postage)

Working Skills for Immigrant Women

by Florence Guy

This is a large book that covers many topics of interest to women already working outside the home, or thinking of taking a job outside the home. It is a workbook that gives information on topics, then uses exercises to promote discussion and review the information.

In our reviewing group, we looked at 2 sections: one on stress and one on learning environments. The exercises were interesting and easy to do because we did them all together. In "Learning Environments" we read about two women students talking together after class. They were discussing a new way of learning. The teacher asked the students in the class what it was they needed to learn and asked them to listen to each other talk about their experiences and knowledge. The teacher said she was not an authority with all the answers. She was there to help. The two women found this situation different from what they were used to.

We turned to the section on "Stress." This really got us talking! We told each other how we experience stress and what we do about it. The book had a list of possible ways of reacting to stress; we added one more: write about it.

We found that the book presented information in a way that was interesting and applied to our lives. We also thought that some of this book is hard to read. It would work best in a class or group. Everyone's participation would bring the pages to life.

A review by Diane Ellson, Cherry Clue, Annmarie Hall and Vivian Stollmeyer, Toronto, Ontario

Learning Environments

SITUATION - Milika and Maria have finished their work in an employment preparation class and are talking quietly about learning.

Maria *You know. . .I feel overwhelmed and discouraged. There is too much to learn. . .new culture, new food, the way people act. . .new skills and even a new way of learning.*

Milika *Yes, I get those feelings sometimes. When I begin to feel that way, I tell myself, "Relax or you'll go crazy." I repeat to myself, "One step at a time."*

Maria *But everything is so different. In classes in my country we never talked to each other about ourselves or our goals. The teacher talked. We listened and read from books and memorized. We only spoke when the teacher asked us a question.*

Milika *Which way do you prefer?*

Maria *I'm not sure. I'm confused.*

- Which of the following topics do the women mention in their conversation? Circle YES or NO.

adapting to a new culture	YES	NO
learning new skills	YES	NO
coping with change	YES	NO
coping with negative feelings	YES	NO
different learning environments	YES	NO
different ways to learn a language	YES	NO

Working Together
by Students for Action,
a group of adult learners
at the Toronto East End
Literacy Project

Publisher:
East End Literacy Press
265 Gerrard St. East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M5A 2G3

Distributor:
Pippin Publishing/
Dominie Press Limited
1361 Huntingwood Dr.
Unit 7
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada
M1S 5J1

30 pages

16 black and white
photographs

$3.95

Editor's Note:
The book shows students discussing common difficulties and discovering ways of working together to solve daily reading problems.

Working Together

by Students for Action, a group of adult learners at the Toronto East End Literacy Project

This is an excellent book. It deals with real life. It made me feel good. I liked the part about Sue opening a bank account. I didn't like the part about Pete signing the form without reading it.

Sue's life is similar to mine because I can't read or write well. This material helps me to read and helps other people to read and feel happy. I would read it again and recommend it to a friend.

The material was easy to read because my tutor and I read it together and the pictures helped me to understand it and enjoy it.

A review by H.O., New Westminister, B.C.

Sue:
I'm glad I came to this meeting.
Helping other people read
is one of the best things we can do.
People can learn
if you don't push them aside.

Writers' Ink Cookbook
by St. Christopher House Adult Literacy Publications

Publisher:
St Christopher House Adult Literacy Publications
761 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M6G 1J1

Distributor:
same as publisher

39 pages

some illustrations

$2.00

Writers' Ink Cookbook

by St. Christopher House Adult Literacy Publications

The Writers' Ink Cookbook is interesting. It has recipes and stories. Some of the recipes are "Potato-in-the-oven" and "Stuffing for Turkey or Chicken" and "A Good Cooked Rooster" and "Oil Soup" and "Apple Crisp" and "Beans and Pork." Some of the recipes are also written in Portuguese. The recipes are easy to follow. We can't buy some of the things here, like okra.

There are stories about cooking too. We liked the story called "A Busy Night," because we all make mistakes when we're cooking. We burn our pots sometimes, too.

A review by Emily Tommy, Dwayne Johnnie and Barbara Ann, Duncan, B.C.

Portuguese Octopus

The first time I had this dish I was six years old. We lived on St. Michael's Island (Azores) and had octopus for special occasions. Now we always have octopus for special occasions. It always makes me feel happy and is my favorite Portuguese dish.

This is one of the many Portuguese ways to prepare octopus.

Dash black pepper
Dash white pepper
2 tablespoons tomato paste
Calda de pimenta (Portuguese hot pepper) to taste
1 garlic clove
1 medium onion
2 cups red wine
2 cups water
2 tablespoons lard or oil
We used six medium-sized frozen octopuses.

☐ BIOGRAPHIES OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT WORKING GROUP

Evelyn Battell has been teaching Adult Basic Education for 14 years in British Columbia and Alberta. She has served on many national and provincial literacy committees and has designed curriculum. Evelyn is currently teaching at Malaspina College, Duncan, B.C.

Elaine Gaber-Katz is a literacy practitioner/researcher who works from a feminist perspective. Previously she was coordinator of East End Literacy, a community-based program in Toronto, and currently she is Learning Materials Facilitator at the Adult Basic Education Unit of the Toronto Board of Education. Elaine is co-author of the book, **The land we dream of: A participatory study of community-based literacy**, published by OISE Press.

Betty Ann Lloyd works in the area of women and literacy as an independent researcher and graduate student. She also works as a clear-language and design consultant and is interested in all issues of language and power. Her most recent research is with CCLOW, looking at the dynamic relationship between women and literacy programs.

Vivian Stollmeyer was a literacy worker at East End Literacy in Toronto for four years. She is presently involved with East End Literacy in their *literacy and the parent* program.

Kathryn Zettel is an adult learning consultant with specific interests in the area of women's work and women's learning. Currently, as the Staff In-Service Facilitator at the Adult Basic Education Unit of the Toronto Board of Education, she is responsible for the staff development and training program for literacy instructors. Kathryn also taught at the first Summer Institute for Literacy Practitioners at Carleton University, in 1990.

☐ *GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWING MATERIALS*

LITERACY MATERIALS FOR WOMEN SHOULD:

- show women's experiences from women's viewpoints and reflect the many different life experiences of women, including the experiences of women literacy students and women from minority groups;
- celebrate women's strengths, respect women's sense of dignity, value what women bring to society and encourage women to be proud of all of these;
- show women in a variety of jobs and roles, including those that may seem surprising or different for women because people are used to seeing men in these jobs, even though women can do them just as well;
- recognize that women have their own particular ways of knowing and their own ways of learning;
- support women's desire to learn and to educate themselves according to their own hopes and dreams;
- recognize that there are many levels of oppression for women and that society often treats women differently because of race, class, religion, age, education, physical abilities and sexual orientation;
- recognize that women do share common experiences because they are women, such as getting lower pay than men, being treated as less important than men, and being physically abused by men;
- make sure that women are not blamed when bad things happen to them because they are women;
- never discriminate against people because of their sex, race, class, religion, culture, ethnic origin, education, sexual orientation or (dis)abilities;
- be non-sexist, present a positive image of women and, preferably, reflect a feminist viewpoint;
- show, as clearly as possible, how they are developed so that women can understand the process of writing, producing and publishing materials;
- be easy to read, with words, layout, print, illustrations, format and binding that make them as easy as possible for all women to use;
- be written mostly by women, including women literacy students and women from minority groups.

Telling Our Stories Our Way

A guide to good Canadian materials for women learning to read

- guide contains reviews of a selection of books and pamphlets of interest to women in literacy programs
- materials reviewed include stories, personal accounts, biographies, poetry, information books on health, birth control, different kinds of work and other subjects
- students and literacy workers wrote the reviews

ISBN 0-921283-08-3

Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women

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